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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive in Tripoli for Visit

LD1007114591 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

'High-Level' Palestinian Group To Visit Cairo

NC1107192391 Cairo MENA in English 1833 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, July 11—(MENA)—Nabil Sha'th, political advisor of Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, arrived here this evening from Amman after a three-day visit to Jordan. A high-level Palestinian delegation will visit Cairo next week to meet a number of Egyptian officials and discuss means of consolidating Egyptian-Palestinian relations, Sha'th, who lives in Cairo, said. The Palestinian-Egyptian talks will also deal with current proposals to resolve the Palestinian problem and the role the United States can play in pushing forward the Middle East peace process, he added.

The Palestinian delegation will include Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, both of whom are members of the executive council of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Algeria's Ibrahimi Meets PLO Delegation

NC1007080091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Ibrahimi has met with a delegation of the PLO leadership in Lebanon made up of Salih Zaydan, Abu-Fadi Raji, Abu-Khalid al-Shamal, and Muhammad Yasin. The delegation emphasized the PLO's support for the national reconciliation process, the al-Ta'if Accord, the extension of state authority over all its territory, and the Army deployment in the south. The delegation also affirmed the PLO's support for implementing Resolution 425 and welcomed an end to the painful events in Sidon and to the dispute which only benefits the Israeli enemy. The delegation stressed the need to discuss social and civic issues and to develop an official dialogue with the PLO to assure the camps' security and achieve their resistance, civic, and political rights, including the establishment of an embassy for the state of Palestine. The delegation expressed its appreciation for Algeria's efforts in both the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples' interest.

Armed Struggle To Resume if Peace Process Fails

JN1207090691 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has warned that the armed struggle will taken up again as the sole path to liberation if the Middle East peace process reaches a dead end. In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he explained that there is no Palestinian who dares to drop his gun, because we are waging a just and legitimate struggle approved by international norms and charters.

He said the PLO has offered all that is required for the peace process and that the United States should act with credibility to pressure Israel into acknowledging the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

The PNC speaker praised the European states' principled policy on the Palestine question. He urged these states to put more pressure on the United Nations and Israel to establish peace and spare the region the eruption of a volcano, which could occur at any moment.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih described Israeli peace plans as illusory plans that deceive no one. He said that with these plans, Israel seeks to portray before the world the image of a peace advocate.

Responding to a question about the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement's refusal to participate in the new PNC, he said that all Palestinian factions with their various trends should work through the PNC to communicate their views to the Palestinian masses in the diaspora.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said he hopes that the Hamas movement will reach an agreement within itself so that we can work together to form a new PNC that is capable of mapping out a strategy for the coming phase.

Algeria

'Extensive' Morning Gunfire Heard in Algiers

LD1207101791 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] It seems that peace did not last long in Algiers. Shots were reportedly heard in the Algerian capital today shortly after the morning prayers. The most extensive shooting is reported to have taken place in the eastern districts of the city.

Government Council Mulls Economic, Social Issues

LD1107203291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The government council met today under the presidency of Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali to discuss the financial situation in the country, especially the state's view of budgetary spending and the (?implementation of the new decisions) in the light of the intervention of the economy minister and the Algiers Bank governor.

The council of the government also listened to comments by the minister of labor and social affairs about the results of the strike during May in response to the call for an indefinite political strike made by the leaders of a political party.

The head of the government called upon the various ministries to mobilize themselves to implement the commitments of the program approved by the National People's Assembly within the spirit of dialogue and consultation with the various social partners. The head of the government entrusted the minister in charge of relations with the National People's Assembly and associations to prepare a national seminar to determine the framework and forms of dialogue to be initiated with all the parties with a view to preparing fair and free elections.

FIS Statement on 'Exclusive' Appointment Powers

LD1107105491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Today the national Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] organization and coordination executive bureau issued a statement containing the following:

According to FIS statutes, the endorsement of governorate and municipal executive bureaus is one of the exclusive powers of the national organization and coordination committee. Therefore, any alteration of these official bodies anywhere in Algeria is null, void, and illegal. Any alteration of governorate and municipal executive bureaus does not represent the FIS.

The statement added: The powers of the national organization and coordination committee include legally prosecuting all illegal appointments and alterations not issued by itself. According to the statement, the national organization and coordination committee informed all governorate and municipal executive bureaus that it would no longer recognize any alteration that it did not make.

Regional Protection Councils Established

LD1107204391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] An Interior Ministry communique announces the establishment of three regional protection councils in Algiers, Oran, and Constantine in compliance with the executive decree implementing the presidential decree stipulating the state of siege. These three councils will be in charge of studying the appeals made by citizens on detention measures regarding one of the security centers, house arrest, or internal exile as decided by the military authorities exercising police authority.

The appeals must be made within 10 days after the measure is issued. The regional protection councils will examine the cases submitted to them within 10 days after submission of the case. For this purpose, a secretariat has been created in every council to recieve and register the various appeals.

The prerogatives of the regional protection councils cover the following provinces:

The regional protection council of Algiers: Algiers, Tipaza, Blida, Boumerdes, Tizi Ouzou, Medea, Bouira, Ain Defla, Ech-Chlef, Djelfa, Aghouat, El Oued, Ghardaia, Ouergla, Adrar, Illizi, and Tamanrasset.

The regional protection council of Constantine: Constantine, Taref, Annaba, Skikda, Jijel, Bejaia, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Msila, Setif, Batna, Oum el-Bouaghi, Guelema, Khenchjela, Tebessa, Souk Ahras, and Biskra.

The regional protection council of Oran: Oran, Tlemcen, Ain Temouchent, Mostaganem, Mascara, Ghelizane, Saida, Tiaret, Tissemsilt, El Biod, Naama, Sidi-Bel-Abbes, Bechar, and Tindouf.

The regional protection councils are composed of the governor, acting as chairman; the commander of the military sector or the commander of the gendarmerie unit; the governorate police prefect; and three people to be appointed based on their attachment to the public interest. This communique indicates that the citizens concerned, or some members of their families, or their defense bodies should be aware that the appeals must be sent within the deadlines to the appropriate regional council. They must be addressed to the chairman of the regional councils of Algiers, Oran, or Constantine.

'Noble Koran Radio' To Begin Broadcasting

LD1007225691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The Noble Koran Radio ['Idha'at al-Quran al-Karim], which was set up within the framework of the

nation:.l radio enterprise, will begin broadcasting recordings of the noble Koran in two transmissions lasting four hours daily, starting on 12 July. The first transmission period is in the morning, from 0900 [0800 GMT] until 1100; the second transmission is in the evening, from 1400 until 1600. It can be heard on 1422 kHz. In the first stage, this radio will broadcast recordings of Koran recitations. In the future, it will transmit varied religious programs. It is worth mentioning that the Noble Koran Radio can be picked up on medium waves. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Comments on Mubarak Message to King Fahd

NC1107135991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that President Husni Mubarak's message to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealt with the Arab situation, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

The foreign minister said that the message he gave the king yesterday responds to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz' message to President Mubarak and is part of the effort to coordinate their positions on current Arab issues and to establish security and stability in the Gulf. Musa said that his meetings reviewed Arab issues and the ongoing preparations to convene a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, and Syria in Kuwait on 15 July.

Musa made a brief visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday.

Musa on Israeli, Iranian Regional Roles

NC1107184591 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 8 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Sana' al-Sa'id; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] The power gap between the United States and the Soviet Union has become obvious. Who will now be charged with maintaining balance in the region? Israel's military strength gives it an edge over the Arabs, and its nuclear capability gives it a permanent security guarantee that the Arabs do not have.

[Musa] No one can impose anything on the Arabs, despite what you have said. Whatever Israel's strength, it does not have the power to impose its decisions or lead the region, now or in the future. The region can survive only through understanding and consensus among its nations. This is an Arab region with its own interests, and our countries' interests are similar or complementary. We must move toward a new phase of joint Arab action based on legitimacy, common interests, and an understanding of the current international situation. We should not go against the international current, and should act according to international norms. We are not living in isolation on an island.

[Al-Sa'id] Some believe that Israel still poses a threat to the Arab world's security, particularly considering the numerous achievements it has made which qualify it to be the leading regional power in this part of the world.

[Musa] This is general talk and is not accurate. What does it mean to be a major regional power? How can a country of three million people be a regional power? What I am trying to say is that this is not the right way to discuss this issue. We are now acting in a situation dominated by the peace process, arms limitation and control. Israel must join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, and nuclear weapons in the region should be controlled and inspected. This will put all the countries in the region on the same level and will eliminate the case of one country's having an edge, enjoying a special status, or being ahead of another in the way you have just described.

[Al-Sa'id] But how can Israel's role as a country with a nuclear capability be neutralized?

[Musa] Security is now linked with regional arms control, and from this angle we can limit Israel's arms as part of this process. This should be done under international supervision and with international inspection. None of this is new, and there are established procedures for such processes. There are treaties, agreements, and norms regulating such matters as well as organizations to handle them. We believe that Israel should not be an exception to the rule and should not be given an advantage over Arab countries. Israel simply has the right to assure its own security, but has absolutely no right to threaten ours. Its nuclear weapons do not give it this right. I believe that if the current situation continues, the arms control initiatives will go nowhere.

[Al-Sa'id] Who can deter any instability that may emerge and threaten regional security?

[Musa] Reason and consensus among the Arabs can.

[Al-Sa'id] Who is responsible for security in the Gulf?

[Musa] Security in the Gulf is the responsibility of the people in the Gulf and of those Arab countries that have the appropriate capability, such as Egypt and Syria. The latter countries, however, should complement the Gulf nations rather than act as substitutes for their involvement.

[Al-Sa'id] Can Iran have a role in the security arrangements?

[Musa] If Iran has certain interests, we are ready to discuss them seriously in a spirit of understanding. We do not deny Iran the right to explain its position, but it must be understood that Iran should also listen to us and consider our opinion. Geographic proximity is not the only issue involved here. There are certain national and Arab issues that should be fully understood and taken into account. I would like to recall that when Iraq

threatened Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Egypt called for paralyzing the Iraqi action. Without that Egyptian position, matters would have developed quite differently. When security was threatened in the Gulf, Egypt assumed the leading political role, and the operation against the Iraqi aggression began in Egypt. Egypt did not act selfishly, but in a pan-Arab fashion and in the framework of Arab legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Musa Denies Calling for Five-Way Arab Summit

PM120708591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Jul 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Denies Convening Five-Way Summit"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied the statements attributed to him with regard to the convening of a mini-summit comprising the Arab states concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT, Musa said that consultations have continued between Egypt and all the Arab parties concerned to seek a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. He emphasized that Egypt's aim is Arab reunion, "but we must not forget that what happened in Kuwait cannot be forgotten, nor can it be soon forgiven."

Musa, Al-Baz Confer With UN Mideast Envoy

NC1107130991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Edouard Brunner, personal envoy of the UN secretary general for Middle East Affairs, who is visiting Cairo.

Discussions dealt with Middle East developments, the efforts to overcome the difficulties in peace negotiations, and the role the United Nations can play in this respect.

'Amr Musa stressed the importance of the UN role in the peace process especially because it is the body that passed Security Council Resolution 242 on the exchange of land for peace. It also passed Resolution 338.

Columnist Warns of Iranian Ambitions in Gulf

NC1107114491 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Jul 91 p3

[Article by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Text] Iran has openly objected to Egypt's participation in regional security arrangements in the Gulf. The objection was not made because Iran is afraid of Egypt's ambitions in the Gulf. Egypt has no ambitions in that area and there is no historical precedent to indicate that it has any interests in seizing any Gulf state or even in interfering in their internal affairs. Iran would not be afraid of an Egyptian presence in the Gulf if Egypt participates in its security arrangements. Egypt has no ambitions in Iran, in the Gulf, in Saudi Arabia, or in any other country in the world. Iran objects to the presence of Egyptian forces in the Gulf for only one reason: because Iran wants to be the only major power in this area in the wake of Iraq's destruction. It will take at least 10 years for Iraq to rebuild.

In simple Arabic this means that Iran has ambitions in the Gulf states and in Iraq. Its ambitions and historic precedents are clear. It considers itself, as does the entire world, to be the Islamic state that represents the Shiite creed. It believes that it is the expression of this creed. It believes that it is responsible for Shiites worldwide. It is known that many Shiites live in Iraq. In fact, they are the majority there. Shiites also live in Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and other Gulf states. The Iranian rulers' dreams of exporting the Islamic Shiite revolution are known. In fact, Iran is trying to export the revolution to states with a Sunni majority as well, states such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Jordan, Tunisia, and Morocco. The secret relations that exist between the Iranian regime and political Islamic leaders in these countries are known and monitored. The money Iran pays for the advocates of Islam and the instigators of strife and disturbances in many Arab states is also known and monitored. No naive person alive is unaware of the real reason Iran is voicing its fierce opposition against Egypt. We believe that Iran has expansionist aggressive plans against the Gulf states. The Iraqi danger has receded but the Iranian danger is getting ready to advance to take its place.

Therefore, the warning should be addressed not to Iran but to the Gulf states themselves. They should appreciate the consequences of Iran's policy and be prepared to thwart the danger. When we were invited to Kuwait last month, I asked Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, about the position of the Gulf states on Iran's participation in the prospective security arrangements. He said that Iran is a Gulf state that cannot be disregarded. I add now that not to disregard Iran is one thing, but that leaving it to take control of the situation is something else. The presence of Egypt and Syria is the guarantee against the possible Iranian threat. There is no danger inherent in the Egyptian presence, but there is danger in Egypt's absence from the Gulf arena. The Gulf states must take all this into consideration.

Planning Minister Returns From Paris Conference

NC1207071491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, returned to Cairo from Paris this morning. He attended

the meetings of the international consultative group in Paris from 8 to 10 July. In an arrival statement, he said that the meetings were successful by all standards. He noted that representatives of more than 20 countries and more than 20 international and financial establishments participated in the meetings. [passage omitted]

Editor on 'Significant' Results

NC1207102891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' reported today that the new agreement approved by the international consultative group to bolster Egypt's economic reform plans emphasizes the world's commitment to supporting Egypt. This support comes out of consideration for the leading and distinguished role Egypt is assuming to consolidate the peace process, protect stability, and direct efforts by regional countries to promote development and raise the peoples' standards of living. [passage omitted]

In his report written in Paris, Nafi' stated that the agreement is significant. Egypt needed an average of $3.2 billion annually to continue its development efforts and raise the people's standard of living. He said the international community has demonstrated its understanding of the economic conditions Egypt is experiencing. The countries participating in this meeting have committed themselves to offer approximately $4 billion annually in 1991-1992 and 1992-1993. He said that $1 billion of this will be given as a grant and approximately $2 billion in easy loans to be repaid over a long period. Approximately $1 billion will be given in trade terms relatively better than ordinary market trade conditions, which are in effect in the World Bank and in other regional banks. He pointed out that the goal is not to burden Egypt with new loans. He said that 75 percent of the sums allocated to Egypt will be given in the form of soft loans and grants. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

President Reportedly Postpones Referendum

LD1107142291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Yesterday, Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya announced that the referendum on the country's draft new constitution, which was due to be held tomorrow [12 July], has been postponed.

In a letter to the chief of the Mauritanian Armed Forces General Staff on the occasion of the Armed Forces' 13th anniversary, he said that this event would constitute a decisive turning point in the country's history, and would be the beginning of a new era based on freedom and democracy.

Mauritanian radio said that Col. Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya had affirmed that every citizen should fully bear responsibility for defining the country's future and security, and he urged the officers, NCO's, and troops to take into account the important stage the country is going through.

Sudan

Justice Minister on Release of Political Prisoners

PM1207083291 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jul 91 p 2

[Kamal Hamid report: "Sudanese Justice Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: There Are No Political Prisoners Except by Judicial Warrant"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Retired Major General Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, Sudanese justice minister and prosecutor general, has denied the existence of any political prisoners in Sudan now, especially following Lieutenant 'Umar al-Bashir's decision to release them all. In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Maj. Gen. Ahmad Mahmud said that at present there are no politicians in prison for the purpose of preventive custody or prohibiting their activities. This is because 299 people, including all leaders of the political parties, have been released.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked the justice minister and prosecutor general to elaborate further, especially in view of the existence of information that there are still political prisoners in jail, including journalist Ibrahim al-'Ajab, who has been detained at the security organ's headquarters for over a month. He said: "Yes, there are some persons who were detained on the basis of corroborated information about their involvement in activities that violate the law and tend to undermine the regime."

He added: "But they were detained with the knowledge of the judiciary organ and for a period of only a month. This period can be renewed until investigations are completed and charges are determined. Then the defendants will be referred to the judiciary or released.

During the investigations or trial period each person is entitled to choose a lawyer or lawyers to defend him and participate in the investigations."

Maj. Gen. Ahmad Mahmud announced that the era of military or special courts has ended forever, and that any defendant will be referred to the independent civil judiciary and will be brought up on purely criminal charges that have nothing to do with politics.

With regard to assertions by the international human rights organization concerning the existence of thousands of detainees and their exposure to physical torture in Sudan, the Sudanese justice minister said: "These allegations are unfounded. We previously welcomed Ian Martin, chairman of the human rights organization, who

visited Sudan and whom we allowed to visit prisons and have access to all information.

We renew our invitation for any member or committee to determine the reality instead of relying on misleading information promoted by people abroad, in order to see that the Sudanese have never in their history seen the physical torture of a prisoner. We are a socially united country and sympathize with each other, as all the world's peoples know."

With regard to those abroad who oppose the government, Maj. Gen. Ahmad Mahmud Hasan, justice minister and prosecutor general, said: "The government has decided to pardon all of them, and the pardon is still valid. I invite all Sudanese to return to their country, and I give them all personal guarantees that they will enjoy all their rights during their presence in Sudan, including their wish to return to where they came from."

SUNA on Rebel 'Plot' To Obtain Israeli Arms

EA1107211091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 11 July (SUNA)—Reports received by SUNA indicate that concerned bodies have revealed a plot for transporting arms to the rebels from the Zionist entity. The report said rebel John Garang, after losing military and political initiatives, has resorted to widening his ties with Israel in order to obtain arms.

The concerned bodies were able to discover the plot after the arms reached a European capital. The arms shipment is intended to be sent to the rebels by sea. Efforts are underway to reveal the various sides involved in the plot.

Rebels Said To Leave Camps, Return to South

EA1107201591 Khartoum SUNA in French 0957 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Malakal, Sudan 11 July (SUNA)—Some 783 rebels have returned to the state of Upper Nile in southern Sudan following peace calls made by the National Salvation Revolution.

The returnees said that they ran away from the rebel camps due to various tribal conflicts within the movement. They confirmed that the rebel movement is dominated by the Dinka tribe. They added that they had been taken by force to recruitment camps in Ethiopia.

The returnees also said that they returned to Malakal because they are convinced that the rebel movement has no objectives and is a tribal movement whose purpose is to loot. They stressed that the rebel camps lack foodstuffs and medicines.

Government To Permit Egyptians To Enter Khartoum

NC1107142591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Jul (MENA)—The Khartoum airport authorities have allowed all the Egyptians who arrived at the airport this morning to enter the Sudanese capital. This step was taken in implementation of the Sudanese Government's instructions to allow Egyptians to enter Khartoum after showing their passports.

A responsible Sudanese security source at Khartoum airport has told the MENA correspondent that the decision to allow the Egyptians to enter Khartoum reflects Sudan's desire to preserve the historic relations between the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

Tunisia

Reportage on Visit by French President Mitterrand

Pre-Visit Statement by Tunis

LD1007185591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The visit that French President Francois Mitterrand will pay to Tunisia tomorrow comes within the context of the deep-rooted ties and continuous relations of consultations between two countries that are linked with common interests on several levels. This was affirmed by Mr. Abdelouahab Abdallah, official spokesman of the Presidency of the republic, who pointed out that this first visit by President Mitterrand to an Arab country after the Gulf crisis expresses the political will of the two countries to intensify the form of dialogue on bilateral issues, in a way that provides the means for greater consolidation of cooperation between them about the questions of the two banks of the Mediterranean Sea and the most important issues in the international arena in a manner that strengthens the role of the two countries in the establishment of security and stability in the world. [passage omitted]

The official spokesman pointed out that the summit meeting between Presidents Ben Ali and Mitterrand is, in the context of the current circumstances, a very important meeting on the bilateral level and on the regional and international planes. It is expected particularly that the visit will enable France to be considered the first partner of Tunisia in its international cooperation, to give a new impetus to the relations of the two countries so as to achieve greater rapprochement between them, expand the fields of bilateral cooperation, increase joint development, and intensify the creation of Tunisian-French projects in the framework of the partnership formula. [passage omitted]

The official spokesman pointed out that it is expected also that Presidents Ben Ali and Mitterrand will deal with international issues, particularly that of the Middle East and the Palestinian question, and the positive role

the two countries can play to push forward the peace efforts in the region, particularly as it was shown on many occasions that the stances and viewpoints of Paris and Tunis on this issue are close to each other.

Mitterrand Arrives

LD1107190591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Tunisia today welcomed President Francois Mitterrand, president of the French Republic, with special warmth. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was at the forefront of those welcoming the great French guest at Tunis-Carthage International Airport, where the plane carrying the French president landed at 1615 this evening.

President Mitterrand was accompanied on this visit by an important delegation consisting of, in particular: Pierre Beregovoy, minister of state for economy, finance, and the budget; Foreign Minister Roland Dumas; and Jean-Louis Bianco, minister of social affairs and integration. [passage omitted]

At the airport's VIP lounge, President Francois Mitterrand made a statement in which he said that the two countries' history had witnessed harsh as well as good days. He said: Now, and for more than a generation, Tunisia and France have become accustomed to living in a framework of cooperation and friendship. He added that he is delighted with his presence in Tunisia at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and to be among his Tunisian friends with a feeling of purity and hope. [passage omitted]

This visit represents the firm political will of the two countries to increase the opportunities for dialogue on bilateral issues in a manner that would increase the chances of greater cooperation between them; on the issues concerning the two sides with regard to the Mediterranean Sea; and on the principal issues in the international arena. This, in turn, should strengthen the two countries' roles in establishing security and stability in the world.

The summit meeting between President Ben Ali and Mitterrand under the current circumstances is one of utmost importance at the bilateral level and also at the regional and international levels. The subject of the Tunisian community in France will be among the most important topics of discussion between the two sides, given the importance of this community; the Tunisian leadership's interest in its situation; and its concern for it to be an element of linkage and enrichment in the two countries' relations.

The Tunisian-French summit meeting will cover the subject of the dialogue that had begun between the five Maghreb countries and the four European countries in the west of the Mediterranean Sea basin in order to discuss the means of development, security, and stability in the region.

It is expected that Ben Ali and Mitterrand will address international issues, particularly the Middle East issue, the issue of the Palestinians, and the positive role that the two countries could play to foster peace efforts in the region, especially in view of the fact that it has become clear on numerous occasions that Tunis' and Paris' positions and viewpoints on this issue are similar.

Paris Analyzes Visit

LD1107184791 Paris France Inter Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand held a brief meeting with Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis today. This was the first visit by the French president to a Maghreb country since the Gulf war. The topics of conversation included fundamentalism and immigration. Ralph Penn reports:

[Begin Penn recording] A quick survey of the Tunisian press suffices. Francois Mitterrand's visit, with big words and beautiful official photos, is an important event for the Tunisians. But this does not tell much. To understand, you must translate "friendship and future" to mean helping Tunisia in its difficult economic struggle; "reunion" to mean closing the circle in the Gulf war; and "privileged moment" to mean the continuation of the Paris-Tunis dialogue. But there are no details. The problem is being discussed elsewhere. Regarding immigration there is no change in policy, and this is what is retained here from the French anti-illegal immigrant program.

To explain this program, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Finance Minister Pierre Beregovoy arrived here before the president of the republic, while Social Affairs and Integration Minister Jean-Louis Bianco traveled on the same plane as the head of state. Tunis awaits promises expressed in figures to compensate its good economic and financial behavior.

There is not one single word, however, regarding bearded men to denounce the fundamentalist danger. These are not topics to be discussed here when it is a matter of reproaching others, including the French, for being too lax toward those who declared war on President Ben Ali, who in fact answers them in kind. [end recording]

Report on Mitterrand-Ben Ali Talks

LD1207014491 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the talks, which lasted over an hour, the official spokesman for the presidency said that the talks dealt with relations between the two countries, bilateral cooperation in the economic and cultural spheres and means of consolidating and intensifying it, in addition to the completion of previously agreed plans and projects in a way that would serve the interests of the two countries and bolster ties of friendship and respect between them.

The talks also dealt with the condition of the Tunisian community in France, and the two sides agreed to continue consultations toward making a decision pertaining to that. In this respect, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali expressed his appreciation for the French president's concern for securing the best conditions of residence and employment for Tunisians in France in view of the services they provided, and the linking factors between the Tunisian and French peoples and the enrichment of the ties of friendship and cooperation they represented.

On the other hand, President Ben Ali reaffirmed his proposal calling for the deployment of the services of [word indistinct] to execute projects that would provide new employment (?opportunities), and others to protect the environment, that would secure the realization of development, stability of the workforce, and the equilibrium of society. President Francois Mitterrand has shown great interest in this proposal, stressing his optimism about its dimensions and usefulness and his intention to submit it to the G-7 member countries at their forthcoming summit in the British capital. He also expressed his country's support for President Ben Ali's proposal on the convening of a summit between the five Arab Maghreb Union and the four European countries overlooking the western basin of the Mediterranean in Tunisia in the second half of January.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also briefed his French guest on an exposition on the achievements made in Tunisia since 7 November [1987] in the spheres of democracy and human rights. President Mitterrand expressed admiration for those efforts and France's readiness to support Tunisia's economic march in order to enable it to consolidate that march.

The president dealt with the strides made on the path of building the Arab Maghreb Union and the agreements reached among the Union member countries to strengthen that structure to secure further rapprochement and integration. President Mitterrand expressed France's interest in that accomplishment and its support for efforts aimed at bolstering the progress of that union.

Talks between the two presidents also dealt with the Middle East and the Palestine issues, during which the identity of analyses and closeness of views became clear on the need to speed up the resolution of the Palestine issue, support the peace efforts, and find a just and comprehensive settlement of the region's issues in a way that would provide security and stability. The meeting was followed by expanded talks attended by the minister-director of the Presidential Office, Mohamed Jeril; Foreign Minister Habib Benyahia; Minister of National Economy Sadok Rabah; and on the French side by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Pierre Beregovoy, minister for economy, finance, and budget, Pierre Beregovoy.

Mitterrand Holds News Conference

LD1107220591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] In the context of his visit to Tunisia, French President Francois Mitterrand has held a news conference at Essaada Palace in La Marsa. The news conference was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the French president and a substantial number of representatives of the national and international press.

At the news conference, President Mitterrand discussed many issues concerning relations between France and Tunisia, the new world order, and the Middle East.

To begin with, the French president said that during his visit to Tunisia he held talks with President Ben Ali at the Republican Palace in Carthage. In particular, bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab Maghreb region were discussed. President Mitterrand described relations between Tunis and Paris as firm and strong and based on mutual trust.

The French president said his visit to Tunisia has made it possible to conclude many agreements, especially in the economic and social spheres. He added that agreement has been reached that the Tunisian-French joint committee will meet under the supervision of the two foreign ministers on 20, 21, and 22 October. He added that he will work for the convening of a five plus four meeting that will bring together the leaders of Maghreban countries and their counterparts in the European Mediterranean countries, preferably in Tunisia in January next year.

More on News Conference

LD1207022591 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Mitterrand has announced that, in the framework of economic cooperation, agreement was reached during his visit on granting Tunisia many loans and on developing relations particularly at the level of partnership. In this context he pointed out that 25 Tunisian-French establishments are currently active. He stressed that he would permit the French central economic fund to become active in investment in Tunisia.

The French president also announced that on the sidelines of the visit, Tunisian and French officials have agreed to establish a center for the education and training of French language teachers in Tunisia, which would absorb around 800 teachers initially.

In the field of health, President Mitterrand said a French expert had been sent to help develop Tunisian hospitals. He pointed out that cooperation in the health sector would include specialist work in organ transplants,

AIDS, and care for the disabled. Efforts would focus on the education and training of specialists in that field in particular.

President Mitterrand then dealt with the subject of the new world order. He pointed out that France wanted that order to be built on the bases of justice and equality, and the offering of assistance to the countries that needed it. He recalled France's stance on the question of debts, and noted that attention was initially given to poorer countries and subsequently would be turned to middle-income countries.

Later, President Mitterrand talked about the Middle East. In that context he said that France stands by international legitimacy, as it had done during the Gulf war. Consequently, it would work for the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East and the safeguarding of the right of the region's peoples to live in peace—including the Palestinian people, whose right to self-determination and establishment of their state on their land is supported by France.

Finally, President Mitterrand praised relations between Tunisia and France, and said that this visit, which was his first to an Arab countries after the Gulf war, assumed special significance. He said: Tunisia is a welcoming and beautiful country, and I urge all French to visit it. [passage omitted]

Mitterrand Departs

LD1207082691 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpt] French President Francois Mitterrand left yesterday evening after paying a working visit to Tunisia during which he held talks with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Interior Minister Begins Visit

LD1007083691 Tunis Tunisian Republican Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Egyptian Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa arrived yesterday afternoon in Tunis on an official visit which will last until 12 July. The Egyptian minister indicated on his arrival at Carthage international airport that this visit will be an opportunity to examine appropriate ways to consolidate cooperation between the Interior Ministries of the two countries in the various fields of security, training, and exchange of experiences and information.

Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel stressed that such visits are likely to help consolidate the bonds of brotherhood and the relations of friendship and (?clearness) between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Security Talks Held

LD1007215791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A Tunisian-Egyptian working session was held at the Interior Ministry this morning under the chairmanship of 'Abdallah Kallel, interior minister, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, interior minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, who is staying in Tunis on an official visit. [passage omitted]

The Tunisian interior minister said that among the most urgent priorities as far as the two ministries are concerned is to succeed together in sharing methods and means to deal with the criminal, sabotage, and terrorist phenomena which target the security of the two countries regardless of the tragedies they cause. He pointed out that what deserves attention is the exchange of information related to these phenomena, particularly in order to deal with the extremist terrorist movements which endeavor to destroy the basic elements of modern civilized society. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian minister pointed out that the complexity of security problems, as a result of increased crime, requires more coordination and cooperation so as to guarantee the security and safety of the two countries. He highlighted his country's readiness to intensify and expand cooperation with Tunisia in training and the exchange of information on anything that touches on security.

The two ministers first held one-to-one talks during which they reviewed the progress of bilateral cooperation and the means to develop it, particularly in the fields concerning the Interior Ministries of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued on Mugabe Visit

LD1007084791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] A joint communique was issued this evening at the end of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's official visit to Tunisia. Here is the text of the communique:

At the invitation of His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Tunisian Republic, His Excellency Robert Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, accompanied by an important delegation, paid an official visit to Tunisia between 7 and 9 July 1991. The presidents of the two countries held talks in an atmosphere in which the spirit of friendship and brotherhood prevailed. These talks enabled Presidents Ben Ali and Mugabe to thoroughly examine bilateral relations and the appropriate means to further consolidate them, and to exercise a wide-ranging exchange of views concerning current issues on the African and international levels.

The presidents of the two countries reviewed the issues of the hour on the regional and international levels and recorded the identity of their views concerning the

various issues tackled. They reiterated in this context their attachment to the principles and aims of the United Nations, OAU, and Nonaligned Movement. They decided to intensify consultations between officials of the two countries. [words indistict] They hailed anew the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people and condemned Israel's continuous aggression and its savage repression against the inhabitants of the Arab occupied territories. They reiterated their appeal to the international community to try to use the current climate of detente to settle conflicts in a peaceful way to further the implementation of international legitimacy and enable the Palestinian people to recover its firm rights to a homeland.

On the economic level, Presidents Ben Ali and Mugabe reiterated their deep concern over the terms of trade, and also the burden of debts on the shoulders of the developing countries. The two presidents called for the establishment of real and efficient cooperation for the sake of development between the North and the South and stressed the necessity of lightening the burden of indebtedness in the achievement of development programs.

They also decided to continue consultation and cooperation to give the Nonaligned Movement a new impetus which will help reactivate dialogue between the South and the North, and to consolidate human solidarity while the features of the new international order are being defined. Meanwhile, the presidents of the two countries welcomed the setting up of the African economic community whose foundation treaty was signed in Abuja, Nigeria by the presidents and heads of governments of the OAU member countries. This community constitutes an important step on the path of African cooperation and unity.

As for bilateral relations, and within the same context, the two heads of state renewed their determination to stimulate cooperation between Tunisia and Zimbabwe in the various spheres of mutual interest to raise their ties to the level of political relations between the two countries.

This afternoon at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a second round of one-to-one talks with President Robert Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe. The official spokesman for the Presidency of the Republic said these talks covered issues of mutual interest at the Arab, African, and international levels. Within this framework, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali renewed his concern over the developments being witnessed in the Middle East, especially those concerning the Palestinian issue and what this issue is experiencing in spite of the efforts being made to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution.

An official ceremony was held this evening at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage during which President Zine El Abidine bade farewell to President Robert Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe, at the conclusion of his three-day official visit to Tunisia. The farewell ceremony was attended by the prime minister, the chairman of the House of Representatives, the secretary-general of the Democratic Constitutional rally, the mufti of the republic, members of the government, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

Bahrain

Commerce Minister Comments on Tehran Visit

JN1107175791 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Manama, 11 July (GNA)—Bahraini Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Ahmad al-Qasim and his accompanying delegation returned home from Tehran after a four-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a statement to GNA, Mr. al-Qasim said he had talks with a number of Iranian officials on cooperation between the two countries and also met with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who expressed his interest toward the visit which represents the beginning for better economic and trade relations between the two neighbors.

Mr. al-Qasim said he held two rounds of talks with the Iranian minister of trade on trade and economic cooperation between Bahrain and Iran.

He added that he also met with the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to discuss bilateral relations.

Regarding his meeting with the Iranian minister of agriculture, the Bahraini minister said they reviewed bilateral agricultural cooperation.

Mr. al-Qasim said he also held talks with the Iranian minister of light industries and deputy minister of mines and minerals on prospects of carrying out joint projects.

He also held talks with the minister of finance on means of boosting economic and financial cooperation.

The delegation, which was accompanying the minister also held fruitful contacts with members of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who welcomed the progress in economic relations between the two countries.

Kuwait

Interior Ministry Statement on Explosions

LD1107125491 London KUNA in Arabic 1231 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Jul (KUNA)—An official source at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry announced that at approximately 1100 local time [0800 GMT] today a fire erupted at "an ammunition depot belonging to the U.S. forces in the Doha region" northwest of Kuwait city.

In a statement received by KUNA, the source pointed out that the fire led to a number of explosions in the depot. The source pointed out that the fire brigade is still "working to put the fire out." It is noteworthy that the explosions were being heard a number of kilometers away from the site of the incident.

On the other hand, another statement issued by the Interior Ministry reported that a landmine exploded today and led to the injury of three persons near one of the cattle pens in the al-Salibiyah region southwest of the Kuwaiti capital. The statement added that the three persons were given first aid and sent to the nearby hospital. However, the statement did not specify the extent of their injuries.

Explosion Not Sabatage

LD1107191391 London KUNA in Arabic 1828 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 11 July (KUNA)—A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry has announced that the fire that broke out at 1100 this morning at an ammunition dump belonging to the U.S. forces in Doha district was caused by a vehicle carrying ammuntion catching fire.

The source added in a press statement that the fire in the vehicle spread, causing a number of explosions in other vehicles loaded with ammunition which, in turn, caused secondary fires and explosions.

The source confirmed that no fatalities had resulted from this accident; some soldiers were injured, and were immediately taken care of. The source said that all those injured had left the hospital after receiving treatment. He added that an assesment of the damage is currently taking place. He stated that the accident was not the result of sabotage.

Security Forces Foil 'Infiltration' by Sea

LD1107142491 London KUNA in Arabic 1348 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kuwait, 7 July (KUNA)—It was announced here today that Kuwaiti security authorities have foiled a new attempt at infiltration into Kuwait City by sea.

An official communique issued here today by the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry says the attempt by 23 people was foiled by a patrol belonging to the guardhouse of the Eastern Region, near the Abraj al-Kuwait area, on the al-Khalij al-'Arabi Road.

The communique says the infiltrators were handed over to the security authorities to do whatever is necessary.

The security authorities have foiled other attempts at infiltration into the country, the latest of which was last Thursday when people were arrested in the al-Salmiyah area.

Amir Addresses National Council

LD0907135191 London KUNA in Arabic 0918 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 9 July (KUNA)—The amir of the country has delivered the following speech to the National Council: [passage omitted]

The ordeal revealed to us and to the entire world the steadfastness of Kuwaiti society and its attachment to noble values, for the Kuwaitis are hard with enemies and merciful to one another. They advocate good and are fond of peace, but if they are treated unjustly they face injustice with its weapon until wrong is defeated and right wins. We will never forget the huge sacrifices made by our steadfast people. [passage omitted]

We will not forget our prisoners and our missing nationals who are suffering for Kuwait, thus deserving God's recompense and the admiration of every Kuwaiti. There will be no peace of mind for me, you, or any Kuwaiti until they return, and we will leave no stone unturned to alleviate their suffering and ensure their safe return to their homeland and families. [passage omitted]

The wound caused by the Iraqi invasion was serious and was not restricted to Kuwait and its people, but it extended to the body of the Arab nation and the Islamic nation. No part of the world was spared its pains, in varying degrees, and this brought about a shift in the types of relations and a change in the regional and international trends and international balances.

His highness said: Brothers, Kuwait has lived seeking peace, defending just human issues everywhere, and supporting international laws. Our ordeal has enhanced our belief in this path and at the same time intensified the determination for close cooperation with the countries which supported us in defending our right. It is Kuwait's right to cooperate unresrictedly with its brothers and friends to ensure its safety to avert any danger it is exposed to, especially the danger represented by the current Iraqi regime, which continues to reveal its aggressive intentions toward Kuwait. All of us realize that we have many tasks after the liberation, among which is that of building and construction, and the necessary plans and efforts so that life and activity can return to normal in Kuwait, or rather more abundant and more active than they used to be.

I remind you, brothers, there is only a brief period during which you will exercise your responsibilities from now until the issuance of the call for the National Council elections in October 1992. This means that you have to intensify the efforts and activity to hasten the completion and make the decisions in cooperation with the government in order to confront the problems to which Kuwait is exposed and fulfill the citizens' demands and aspirations.

We are all addressed by the mighty divine call: "O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be against rich or poor. For God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts of your hearts, lest ye swerve, and if ye distort justice or decline to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that ye do."

Let us move toward the Kuwait of the future, the Kuwait of building, construction, and freedom. We rely on God, and from Him we derive help and support. We ask Him to guide our path, safeguard our steps from error, our hearts from arbitrary opinions, and to protect Kuwait and its people from every artful plot and mischief. May God grant you success. Peace be with you, and His mercy and blessings.

National Council Issues Statement

LD1107090191 London KUNA in Arabic 1814 GMT 10 Jul 91

["Text" of National Council Statement Issued 10 July]

[Text] Kuwait, 10 July, (KUNA)—The National Council issued a statement today. Here is the text:

At this moment, separating right from falsehood, freedom from domination, and at this moment in which the Kuwaiti people are recovering their land, freedom, dignity, and sovereignty, and removing from their back the nightmare of invasion, subjugation, and treason; at this decisive historic moment, the National Council holds the first meeting of its ordinary second session, when the hope of the Kuwaiti people for the liberation of its soil from the dirt of the hateful Iraqi invasion has been achieved, and its masses have returned to their homes after the long dispersion and exile, to resume with their brothers who had stood fast, their civil march of elevating the values of right and good, and for the beat of life to resume in their veins stronger than before; at this moment, we find it necessary to express gratitude to those who deserve it, and to make a sincere stand of discharging an obligation and expressing gratitude to all those who stood by right in our ordeal, and gave us their support and backing, a matter which has secured for us victory in the battle of liberation.

The principled and honorable stand made by the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and his brothers the presidents and amirs of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, Shaykh 'Isa bin-Salman al-Khalifah, His Majesty Sultan Qabus bin-Sa'id, Shaykh Khalifah bin-Hamad al-Thani, and the stands of presidents of the sister countries; President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and President Hafiz al-Asad; and the presidents and prime ministers of the friendly countries, His Excellency U.S. President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and their peoples and their political, military, and information institutions, and their upholding of the calls of the lofty conscience and international legitimacy, a matter which will remain in time an example to be followed of the true belief in legitimacy and in all values and principles which preserve the freedom of peoples and protect human rights, contained in international charters and custom, a matter which we record for all of them with full pride, esteem, and appreciation.

While we credit kindness to those who deserve it, we will not forget the base and lowly attitude, which is devoid of any values and principles of right, justice, good, and

peace, which a small misguided and unjust group insisted on sinking to, a small group of Arab states and organizations and their institutions, blinded by hatred, not hatred and resentment for those, but pity for them for turning their backs on right, and their rebellion against the calls of conscience and reason, on whom history has passed its judgement. There is no harsher sentence than that of history.

While the National Council records these stands, it does not forget to extend to the honorable Kuwaiti peple, who resisted tyranny, were patient, and endured until victory was achieved, its blessings for their assistance in the victory in the battle of liberation, and pledges to these noble people to put the cause of our prisoners and detainees held by the authorities of the Iraqi tyranny at the top of its concerns at this stage in order to speed up their release and secure their safe return to their country, families, and kinfolk.

While the National Council makes a pledge to God, the homeland, and the amir to take its people, with all the traces of the ordeal, across to the Kuwait of tomorrow, the Kuwait of freedom, giving and good, it remembers proudly our revered martyrs, who sacrificed their souls in the battle of steadfastness for their country and people, and beseeches God Almighty to bless our steps for the future, and to bestow His mercy on our martyrs and to admit them to His vast paradise. He is the best patron and the best supporter.

Official Says Iraq Holding 3,800 POW's

LD1007112191 London KUNA in Arabic 1034 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 10 July (KUNA)—The national committee for prisoners of war and missing persons appealed to anyone who has a photograph of those missing to take it to the committee center at Shaykhan al-Farisi Hall in preparation for establishing an information center to identify missing persons.

Dr. Badr al-'Umar, chairman of the executive bureau of the national committee for the prisoners of war, pointed out that 32 prisoners of war are expected to be released out of a total of 73 prisoners, 41 of whom have recently arrived.

In an interview today, Dr. al-'Umar told KUNA that the aim of establishing an information center in order to gather all the photographs of people scattered in various places, the identities of many of whom are not known, is "to be the only place where the families of those missing could go and identify the photographs as a means to look for the persons and know their fate." [passage omitted]

The committee's executive bureau chairman said that the approximate number of prisoners of war in Iraq is 3,800 persons, out of whom 1,800 are Kuwaitis. He said that the number of prisoners released since the liberation is more than 7,000. He pointed out that the main obstacle facing the committee is the fact that Iraq will not reveal the true number of prisoners and their location. [passage omitted] With regard to what is said of the committee to the effect that it sometimes delays in answering the Red Cross, he said that any information from the committee, whether from the Red Cross or any other source, must be checked and investigated in order to ascertain its truth, and then suitable measures are taken.

He added that the committee does not respond to any incidental information because much that comes to the committee from various sources might not be true, whether it be the names, nationalities, ages, or anything else, and such information exhausts much of the committee's time and effort.

Problems in Drafting Budget Reported

LD1007165791 London KUNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Sulayman al-Rumi, Kuwaiti Finance Ministry assistant under secretary for budget affairs, announced that the ministry is studying many alternatives for financing the general budget for fiscal year 1991-1992, either though borrowing oil or financial loans from abroad, or through offering bonds or debentures on the Kuwaiti treasury, or through financing from the general financial reserve.

In an interview here today with KUNA, Mr. al-Rumi said that this comes as a result of "the huge damage to the oil sector as a result of the vicious Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and, as a consequence of that, the termination of oil production which is considered to be the vital artery and the financial source for the state's general revenues, which represent a ration of about 92 percent of the general revenues." He pointed out that there is a committee made up of representatives from the Ministry of Finance, the General Authority for Investment, the Central Bank of Kuwait, and the Ministry of Oil, which is studying the means for making these alternatives and resources available. Efforts are still being exerted to avoid this unnatural phase concerning the revenues of the forthcoming budget.

Mr. al-Rumi said that the minister of finance has issued a circular about preparing the state's general budget, according to which he set down some conditions, restrictions, and instructions to be taken into account so that the general budget will reflect the necessary needs and becomes a work plan that takes into consideration the implementation capability of each sector within the limits of what possibilities become available to it, and also the concentration on the demand and the necessary needs, be it economic, service-related, cultural, or social.

Assistant under secretary Mr. al-Rumi said that the preparation of the new budget will take into due account doing away with unnecessary services so as to rationalize spending and cut expenditure, without encroaching on the level of production or services, as well as paying

attention and concentrating on training national elements and giving them the opportunity in all government departments.

Mr. al-Rumi added that the Ministry of Finance is doing its best to insure that government sectors prepare the draft budget for fiscal year 1991-1992 as soon as possible, despite the many difficulties which these sectors encounter. Among these difficulties is the destruction, robbery, and plunder of government institutions, equipment, and appliances, a matter whose negative effects reflect on the preparation for the forthcoming budget, as well as on the magnitude of the necessary financial requirements to deal with it. He emphasized that due to the result of the delay in completing the draft budget and sending it to the sectors concerned for adoption, the minister of finance has issued a circular to the ministries, government offices, and bodies and institutions whose budgets are either attached or independent to organize spending operations until the issuance of the budget law, in order to allow those sectors to conduct their affairs in a natural way and achieve the aims alloted to them.

He pointed out that the general policy for preparing the state's budget for fiscal year 1991-1992 will follow two parallel lines, i.e. on the one hand rebuilding and reconstruction, and on the other hand satisfying all the government sectors necessary needs; this is not an easy task and requires the pooling of efforts by all state sectors and employees, and clear and well-defined financial and administrative programming.

Saudi Arabia

Continuing Reportage on Visit by PRC's Li Peng

Meets Defense Minister

LD1007171191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Li Peng, chairman of the PRC State Council, received His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general at his residence in Jiddah shortly before noon today.

During the meeting, bilateral relations were discussed. [passage omitted]

Departs 11 Jul

LD1107164291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1621 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Jiddah, 11 July (SPA)—Li Peng, chairman of the PRC State Council, left Jiddah this evening at the end of his visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

Communique Issued

LD1207034191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jul 91

["Text" of joint communique on the visit of PRC Premier Li Peng issued on 11 July; place not given]

[Text] At the invitation of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Excellency PRC State Council Premier Li Peng paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 9 to 11 July 1991. On the occasion of this visit, official talks were held between the custodian of the two holy mosques and His Excellency Li Peng on the various aspects of bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues and topics of common interest. The points of view were in agreement.

The talks were attended on the Saudi side by: His Royal Highness Amir 'Abdallah ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Amir Sultan ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defence, aviation and inspector general; His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Dr. Sulayman al-Sulayyim, minister of commerce and accompanying minister; His Excellency 'Umar 'Abd-al-Qadir Faqih, director general of the Audit Bureau; His Excellency 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mansuri, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; and Ambassador Tawfiq Khalid al-'Alamdar, Saudi ambassador to the PRC. On the Chinese side they were attended by His Excellency Qian Qichen, state councillor and foreign minister; Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; Yuan Mu, director of the State Council Research Center; Lui Zhongli, deputy secretary general of the State Council; Liu Shuqing, director of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the State Council; Wang Changyi, director of the West Asian and North African Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Sun Bigan, PRC ambassador to the Kingdom.

Both sides expressed their full satisfaction at the development recorded in their two countries' relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations, discussed frameworks for the widening and developing of the fruitful cooperation between them in various fields, and agreed on the importance of signing an agreement regulating the facets of cooperation in the economic, trade, technical, and investment fields between the two countries at the earliest opportunity. Both sides expressed their eagerness for the important continuation of the exchange of visits and consultations between the two countries and their senior officials in consolidation of the relations of friendship, in a way that contributes to the consolidation of the cause of world peace. And in confirmation of the mutual desire to develop relations and understanding between the leaderships and peoples of the two countries, in the interest of their common

good and progress, his excellency the guest renewed the invitation extended to the custodian of the two holy mosques from His Excellency President Yang Shangkun to visit China, which he accepted with gratitude with the date to be fixed later.

And from the premise of the two countries' belief in the urgent need and extreme importance of the prevalence of peace and stability in the Middle East, both sides confirmed the need to support international legitimacy in order to preserve the prevalance of law and discipline in international politics and stressed the need for undertaking to work for the implementation of UN resolutions aimed at achieving peace and stability in the Gulf region and respect of the sovereignty and independence of its states. Regarding the Palestinian question, both sides made a commitment to continue efforts aimed at giving an impetus to the peace efforts being exerted to solve the problem in a way that guarantees the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Both sides considered with extreme interest the developments and events witnessed by the world and expressed the hope that the international relaxation would lead to the ending of tension and removal of rifts in the world and finding speedy solutions to regional conflicts, and that the world would witness closer economic cooperation based on mutual interest, which backs economic development programs in developing countries. Both sides believe in the need to establish a new economic order on the basis of mutual respect of sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonaggression, noninterference in others' internal affairs, mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

His Excellency Li Peng expressed his deep appreciation to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded him.

Communique Issued on Airliner Crash

LD1107121491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Here is a communique on the Nigerian airliner crash. The following communique was issued by the General Directorate of Civil Aviation:

At 0829 [0529 GMT], a Nigerian Airlines DC-8, flight No. 2120, carrying 247 Nigerian pilgrims and 14 crew members took off from King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport in the direction of the town of Sokoto, Nigeria.

At 0836 [0536 GMT], the pilot of the airliner told the control tower that he had lost control of the airliner control apparatus, that there was a fire on board, and that he wanted to return to the airport. A state of maximum alert was declared immediately at the airport to receive the Nigerian plane. At about 0848 [0548 GMT], about one km from central runway No. 34, the airliner crashed to the ground, caught fire, and was destroyed on the airport ground. This led to the death of all those on board.

Those in charge of safety at the Civil Aviation Directorate have started an investigation into the incident.

King Fahd Expresses Regret

LD1107164591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has expressed his deepest regret at this morning's accident in which a Nigerian airliner caught fire over Jiddah international airport and crashed on the airport grounds, leaving all passengers dead.

The king has expressed his utmost condolences to the president, government, and people of the Nigerian republic. [passage omitted]

To share this grief with our Nigerian brothers, the custodian of the two holy mosques has issued his noble instructions to Prince Faysal ibn-Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the general head of youth guidance and president of the Saudi football federation, to postpone the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Cup match, which was scheduled for this evening in Jiddah, to another date which will be set in due course.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Departs

LD1107082891 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpt] His Excellency the Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa, left Jeddah today following a short visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

Iranian Pilgrim Leader Appreciates Saudi Support

LD1007214691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The head of the Iranian pilgrim delegation, Mohammad Reza'i, who is also the head of the hajj and pilgrimage organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, has expressed his thanks and appreciations to the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, which has provided every facility to the pilgrims of the holy house of God in general, and the pilgrims of Iran in particular.

This came in a statement made by the head of the Iranian pilgrim delegation after his meeting today in Jiddah with His Excellency the minister of pilgrimage affairs and awqaf, 'Abd-al-Wahhab bin-Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wasi'. He said: In spite of the passage of three years

during which the pilgrims of Iran were unable to perform the rites of the pilgrimage, this year was good and the Iranian pilgrims were able to perform their rites with every ease and comfort, thanks to the cooperation and coordination between the two countries during the short period in which preparations were completed. Praise be to God, cooperation between the Ministry of Pilgrimage Affairs and Awqaf in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Irananian pilgrim delegation was evident. [passage omitted]

For his part, His Excellency the minister of pilgrimage affairs and awqaf, 'Abd-al-Wahhab bin-Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wasi', said that, during the audience, discussion were held on the affairs of the Iranian pilgrims and the results achieved this year. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Officials Meet Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister

FL1007121491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Yemeni television has reported that Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has met in Sanaa with Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Giraldo Mazola. During the meeting, in which the two talked about the international situation and bilateral relations, Mazola conveyed a message from Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. Mazola had previously participated in the first round of talks with his Yemeni counterpart, Sa'id al-Mohsen, which was also attended by officials from both foreign ministries and Cuban Ambassador to Yemen Hector Estrada Acosta.

'Aziz Criticizes Bush's Remarks on Sanctions

JN1107140691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz criticized U.S. President George Bush's statements on Iraq and described them as based on rancor to a point where they made him lose balance in his speaking style. Commenting on the U.S. President's news conference in a statement to INA, he said: When Bush deals with international issues, he speaks quietly and uses ordinary political language. When he talks about Iraq, he becomes nervous, uses vulgar language, and departs from logic.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Yesterday, Bush used two different kinds of logic and two kinds of language at the same news conference. When he spoke about sanctions imposed on the fascist regime in South Africa, he belittled the effect of these sanctions in creating political changes for the elimination of racial discrimination. When he spoke about the unjust sanctions imposed on Iraq, he stressed the importance of using them as a political means to achieve the objectives of the tendentious and aggressive U.S. policy against Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that the U.S. President's stand in this regard and the position he reiterated yesterday indisputably proves the reason for the U.S. President's rancor and aggressiveness toward Iraq's people.

The deputy prime minister called on all the fair people in the world, individuals and governments, to understand the correct meaning from this tendentious U.S. stand that conflicts even with the UN Security Council texts, which were imposed by America, taking into consideration that they are unjust and include double standards in dealing with international issues. He stressed that continuing the economic blockade against Iraq is a premeditated crime against Iraq's people and a mean tool used to achieve colonialist imperialist objectives.

'Last Chapter' of Conspiracy

JN1207081291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that President Bush's dangerous statements at a recent news conference clearly imply aggressive intentions against Iraq and its people and historic leadership. They also signify flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of Iraq as a sovereign state with independent decisionmaking powers.

In its editorial today, the newspaper says: We were not surprised by the aggressive tone Bush conspicuously used to demonstrate his arrogance and disregard for world public opinion. This is the prelude to a new chapter in the great conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation and the introduction to a new aggression under fabricated pretexts and false accusations propagated by the United States and peddled by all its political and media sounding boards.

The newspaper adds that in his new aggressive statements, Bush resorted to the last chapter of the conspiracy after realizing that all the previous chapters had failed to achieve their objective to tear up Iraq's geographic map and rent the fabric of its national unity, and to target its historic leadership represented by their model leader, Saddam Husayn.

The newspaper explains that in his news conference Bush forgot international norms and charters and even tactful speech and diplomacy to bare the teeth of the ugly American wolf and reveal his ingrained historical grudge against Iraq and its people. He did not even conceal the nature of the next step or chapter of the conspiracy against Iraq and its people and historic leadership.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Bush's aggressive statements, as well as recent developments, particularly the contrived hullabaloo and stepped-up campaign to strip Iraq of its peaceful nuclear program, indicate that the U.S. Administration is still betting on food to break the steadfastness of the Iraqi people.

The newspaper points out that Bush is not only using food as a weapon to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs, but that he is also using the logic of tutelage and direct hegemony, and shamelessly demanding that the political regime in Iraq be changed and that the unity of the people and their leader, Saddam Husayn, be torn asunder.

Concluding, the newspaper says: Bush and all the pillars of the unjust alliance should know that the Iraqi people will not come to their knees under the pressure of the blockade, whatever the sacrifices. They should also know that these steadfast, struggling people and their crown, the heroic Iraqi Army, are all loyal soldiers to the historic leader, Saddam Husayn.

Minister Hammadi on U.S. Antinuclear Campaign

JN1107152691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1456 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad 11 Jul (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said that the United States is leading a premeditated disinformation campaign against Iraq's peaceful nuclear program.

In a statement to INA, he noted that everyone knows that enriched uranium alone cannot produce a nuclear bomb, and that, in its letter to the United Nations, Iraq has clearly detailed the uranium it possesses, which was prepared by France, in accordance with a bilateral agreement, or that was prepared in a laboratory in a very small quantity with a low enriched level for peaceful scientific research. He said the way to prepare this is known, as well as the equipment and time needed to prepare it.

He said: Speaking about large stored quantities or buried equipment is stupid talk that experts can easily scientifically and technically refute. The lies and delusions of U.S. President Bush and his entourage, however, are aimed at justifying his aggression and blockade against the Iraqi people. The U.S. President deliberately forgets that Iraq is one of the first nations to call for making the Middle East a zone free of nuclear and mass destruction weapons, and also deliberately ignores Israel's possession of these weapons with the help of U.S. financial aid and expertise. This is in addition to his alliance with Israel and using its territory for the strategic storage of U.S. weapons.

The culture and information minister added: This insolence and indifference to and delusion of world public opinion cannot come from anyone but people whose evil material power has deprived them of moral and religious conscience and the sense of humanitarian responsibility toward the world.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said: U.S. President Bush yesterday lifted sanctions from fascist South Africa, taking into consideration that he knows that they are weak and false sanctions, and is aware of the fact that Israel and South Africa are parties to a huge program for manufacturing nuclear weapons. However, he and the U.S. news media deliberately ignore these facts to delude the U.S. people and world public opinion.

He added: Yesterday, through clear lies, the U.S. President stressed that Iraq can import food and medicine. However, the U.S. President instructs his representative to the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee to disapprove Iraq's request to allow it to export some of its oil to buy food and medicine, and he instigates the other committee members to reject Iraq's request.

The culture and information minister said: According to diplomatic language, the U.S. President is using double standards. However, according to ethics and heavenly religions, he is an evil, rancorous liar, who does not hesitate to do anything to satisfy his blind personal rancors.

Saddam Addresses Delegation From Al-Basrah

JN1107201591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1708 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has said that the most important thing in the last chapter of the aggression against our country—the conspiracy of the mobs and the gangs—has been for us to learn a profound lesson. When we say we were inattentive, we must guard against being caught unaware again. When we say that we were confused, we must make sure not to lapse into perplexity again. When we say that we have suffered blurred vision, we must make sure that next time around we sort out colors so that our losses are such as one usually suffers.

Speaking to a large visiting delegation from al-Basrah that came to Baghdad to express their unqualified allegiance to his excellency, their adherence to his leadership, and their preparedness to march under his banner in the cause of building great Iraq and repairing the damage caused by the aggressors and agents, the president added:

The Ba'th Party is your party and springs from all of you, including those who are not affiliates. It is what we would like for our country, and its principles derive from the heritage of the country.

His excellency said: We are a great people and each one of us must live up to our message which we have conveyed to the world and all humanity—the message supported by those who are in the right, God willing.

His excellency, the leader president, was greeted with popular songs and cheers expressing sentiments of love.

The delegation comprised a number of the reverend religious leaders, notables from the governorate, intellectuals and tribal chiefs, women representatives, and a number of heads and members of people's councils representing the governorate's capital, villages, countryside, marshes, and deserts.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said those who had come from across the border [words indistinct] are being held responsible for our tribulations.

His excellency added that some lost their cool when they saw 30 nations braced for a global war. Al-Basrah must be given credit, since it is the neck of the border and may be taken unaware sooner than other cities. With the danger coming from across the border, al-Basrah is in the frontline. In other words, the enemy will reach it before other cities.

Al-Basrah had to bear the full brunt of the strike, and yet it did not lose its nerve.

The president said: The bombardment to which al-Basrah was exposed did not happen to any other city with the exception of Baghdad. This means that the weight which fell on the residents of al-Basrah was heavier than that which fell on the remaining governorates. Al-Basrah went through circumstances which were not experienced by other governorates, because it constitutes the depth of the front and sees every negative aspect of the front. Second, it is close to the front and consequently feels the fever, pressures, and weight of combat at the front. Third, the firepower unleashed against al-Basrah was greater than that which was unleashed against other governorates. The deficiency in it could have been greater had it not been hardened by combat for eight years.

His excellency the president added: Each one of us should quickly take inventory of his mistakes. There are mistakes within us that enabled those who came from across the borders to get in. Hence, it is unacceptable to presume that we made no mistakes and to remain

content with saying that this is impermissible. That is because he who knows that there are "guards" in place does not come from across the border. The infiltrator entered after he had felt or heard things or seen faces. Incidents took place, and you saw what has befallen us because of this, and this is inattentiveness.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn went on to say: We must learn this lesson and change some of our modes of thought. This is because if we fail to do so, we could make mistakes that might result in the payment of a dearer price. These mistakes might not be made now, they might be committed 10 years from now, or in an era other than ours.

President Saddam Husayn warned against the perils of inattentiveness. His excellency said that the one who is addressing you has been caught unawares because I believed what the Iranians told us and forgot what had taken place over the past eight years.

He said that this is part of our history and no one could forget what is part of history. However, I forgot it, as I have already mentioned, because their new positive talk made us draw the curtain on all the negative things that we believed or deduced about them.

His excellency added: We never thought that the stab would come from Iran at a time when they were raising their voices about the arch Satan with whom the battle had been waged.

Saddam Meets Kurdish Leader Jalal Talabani

JN1107200491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1929 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—This evening, President Saddam Husayn met with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Government-Kurdish Talks Suffer 'Setback'

PM1107144791 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Jul 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Baghdad Rejects Amendments to Autonomy"]

[Text] London, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Kurdish sources have said that the Irbil negotiations between the government delegation and the Kurdistan Front leadership suffered a setback the day before yesterday due to the government representatives' insistence on the plan announced early last month.

The sources told SAWT AL-KUWAYT yesterday that Kurdish amendments to the government plan on the development of autonomy were all rejected, and the Kurdish delegation broke off the negotiations and withdrew to its headquarters in Shaqlawah (30 km north of Irbil) to discuss and assess the situation.

The sources revealed the names of the two negotiating delegations. The Kurdistan Front delegation comprises Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan; Dr. Mahmud 'Uthman, leader of the Socialist Party of Kurdistan; Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Rahman (Sami), leader of the People's Democratic Party of Kurdistan; plus nine cadres and military and legal advisers.

As for the government delegation, it is headed by 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council; Tariq 'Aziz; deputy prime minister; Husayn Kamil, defense minister; and six advisers, three of them military men.

The sources said that Watban Ibrahim, Saddam's half brother, attended part of the meetings. Meanwhile, Pesh Merga (Kurdish fighters) groups are currently setting up inspection roadblocks on a number of access roads leading into the major towns in order to control security. Many of these are set up jointly with government troops.

In Dahuk, Pesh Merga groups are working to prevent the eruption of new demonstrations condemning the government and demanding that the coalition forces continue their deployment in northern Iraq to prevent the government forces' attempts at reprisals.

On the eve of negotiations Irbil witnessed widespread demonstrations against the Saddam Husayn government. They demanded that the coalition forces continue their mission in the security zone. They attacked government police stations, establishments, and ruling party offices.

Letter to UN Regrets 'Informal' Embargo Review

JN1207060091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Iraq has officially expressed its deep regret over the failure of the Security Council to assume its duties in accordance with Paragraph 21 of Resolution 687, which unambiguously stipulates that the economic embargo against Iraq has to be reviewed every 60 days.

This came in a letter sent by Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, to the president of the Security Council. The letter was officially circulated in New York yesterday as a Security Council document.

The INA correspondent in New York said Iraq explained in its letter that the Security Council conducted the review only in closed informal consultations that have not yielded any clear official position for the public.

Al-Anbari said that the result the Ivory Coast ambassador, president of the Security Council for last month, communicated to the Iraqi mission was that the Council members were not in agreement, and therefore, the economic embargo remained in place.

He pointed out that the economic embargo has resulted in human suffering exceededing all legitimate international bounds, and that the aim of the embargo has become to keep up the suffering of the Iraqi people under the cover of international legitimacy.

He added that all independent reports on the suffering of the Iraqi people make the Security Council's position questionable and strange. He cited reports by Mr. Martti Ahtisaari, Harvard University, the Physicians for Peace Group, the U.S. International Medical Association, the Human Rights Physicians, the International Red Cross, the Catholic Relief Services, and the Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Concluding its letter, Iraq expressed the hope that the Council would discharge its duties properly in accordance with Resolution 687.

Opposition Radio: Saddam's Motorcade Attacked

NC1207054491 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] To express our brave people's rejection of criminal Saddam's regime, during his visit to the holy city of Karbala', Saddam's humiliated motorcade came under heroic assault by our valiant revolutionaries. They succeeded in killing three senior local officials and injuring others in the motorcade. Hamid Hasan, official in charge of intelligence in Karbala'; Salah 'Ali al- Khayyat, second in command of intelligence in Karbala'; and 'Ali Majid, head of the Ba'th Party Karbala' branch, were killed in the attack and Karbala' military governor, Major General 'Abd-al-Khaliq al-Samarra'i, and his deputy, Colonel Jalal al-'Ubaydi, were injured. Our heroic strugglers' operations will continue until the 'Aflaqite regime is defeated, tyrant Saddam overthrown, and victory achieved, God willing.

Hasan Explains 'Difficult' Situation to Envoys

JN1107114391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Minister of defense, Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, today met individually with Eliot Richardson and Jean Daniel [name as received], members of the delegation accompanying Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, envoy of the UN secretary general and coordinator of international relief efforts in Iraq.

The minister explained the extent and magnitude of destruction to Iraq's economic facilities in the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression, and the difficult circumstances through which the Iraqi people are going as a result of the unjust economic blockade imposed by the Security Council on Iraq, even though it fully complied with UN resolutions.

UN's Aga Khan Deems Cooperation 'Excellent'

JN1107173891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1454 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, has described the existing cooperation between Iraq and the United Nations as very excellent. In a statement to INA, he expressed thanks and appreciation to the Iraqi authorities for providing him and members of the UN delegation with all facilities to accomplish their mission and work in Iraq.

UN Envoy Tours Karbala' Shrines, Surveys Damage

JN1207105691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1042 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Karbala', 12 Jul (INA)—Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, executive envoy of the UN secretary general, today visited the holy shrines in Karbala' Governorate, 100 km southwest of Baghdad.

Aga Khan surveyed the damage and sabotage done to state property and its vital services and facilities, as well as to citizens' property.

Karbala' Governor 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz briefed Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan on the work under way to rehabilitate the holy shrines, services, and health facilities in the governorate.

Nation Said Awaiting Turkish Aid To End Embargo

TA1207101591 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0920 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo (AA)—Nabil al-Tikriti, Iraq's representative in the Arab Union, said here on Friday that Iraq was waiting for Turkey's assistance for the lifting of the embargo on Iraq. AA correspondent reported from Cairo.

In an exclusive interview with AA, al-Tikriti said undeniable racial, cultural and geographical (?ties) existed between Turkey and Iraq.

[Passage indistinct] "We are confident that our Turkish (?brothers) believe that the embargo on Iraq is not justified," he said.

He added that 6 thousand Iraqi children died because of shortage of food and medicine this year as a result of the embargo and that 17 thousand more may die until the end of the year.

Al-Tikriti said an agreement to be reached with Kurds on autonomy will reinforce Iraq's national integrity.

He also claimed that all minorities in Iraq receive similar treatment from the government.

Al-Tikriti said the poised hammer force the U.S. plans to deploy in southeastern Turkey constitutes a threat on Iraq, which is getting ready for democratization.

Kurds Reportedly Establish 'Tribunals' in North

NC1207090891 Istanbul CUMHURIYET in Turkish 9 Jul 91 p 8

[Report by Ufuk Tekin: "Kurdish Peshmergas Establish Tribunals"]

[Excerpts] Dahuk, Shaqlawah—The return of millions of Kurdish refugees to their homeland after being forced to stay in Turkey and Iran for two months has created a new but temporary order north of the 36th Parallel. [passage omitted]

The Kurds have taken control of northern Iraq to a great extent. However, the problems and confusion following the war have increased the tendency to commit crime in the region. This situation has led to the establishment of "special tribunals [mahkemeler]". Nevertheless, as in the case of governors, district officers, and mayors, the tribunals are not official, but they still are valid institutions.

Democratic Party of Kurdistan representative Fettah Osman informed us in Dahuk that the Kurdish Front has appointed peshmergas, who are university graduates and have studied law, to serve as "judges."

The tribunals have neither a penal code nor a law to consult in establishing what constitutes a criminal offense or in deciding penalties. The peshmerga tribunals have adopted many Iraqi laws, but a number of provisions have been excluded from them. For example, all the legal provisions related to the concept of "political crimes" have been removed. Peshmerga representatives have said: "Anyone can move to set up an organization against Saddam Husayn or propagate against him."

Nevertheless, the opposite of this is not allowed. Praising Saddam Husayn or criticizing the Kurdish Front is regarded as a "kind of criminal offense." [passage omitted]

Rebel Radio Claims Attack on Military Unit

NC1207055191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] In continuation of the revolutionary jihad course pursued by our struggling people, and after a carefully planned operation, a group of our zealot mujahidin launched a lightning attack against the 74th Brigade units. According to our own sources, the brigade units sustained major losses in lives and equipment. Eighty personnel of the collapsing regime's mercenaries were killed, two antiaircraft guns and 19 vehicles were destroyed. Our brave revolutionaries captured a number of light weapons and returned safely to base with God's care. Blessed be the faithful mujahidin on the path to dignity and victory.

Ramadan: Ba'th Party Fighting for Arab Might

JN1107112191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that the free election of leaders at all levels is a trust placed on the voters and a responsibility for them, who must choose competent and qualified leaders capable of serving the masses and leading them toward the great objectives of the party.

While supervising the elections of the party's Babil branch organizations, Mr. Ramadan said the heroism the Ba'th Party believes in is being achieved in great Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqis have recorded unique acts of heroism and are triumphing over all forces of injustice, aggression, and treason, he added.

Mr. Ramadan said that Ba'thist strugglers have the honor of being at the head of those fighting for the Arabs' dignity, might, and progress. They are proud to have made precious sacrifices for the Arabs' freedom, independence, and destiny, and they absolutely deserve the appreciation and pride of free Arabs, he added.

Comrade Ramadan stressed the need to strictly observe the Party's genuine principles and ancient militant tradition as this is the guarantee of the Party's strength, firm structure, and continued struggle for the sake of all Arabs.

Ne'eman Assesses Iraq's Nuclear Capability

TA1107142191 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Interview with Professor Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, in the Jerusalem studio by Dan Shilon in the Tel Aviv studio—live; following is text of the shorter version of the interview published on page 28 of the 10 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT]

[Text] [Shilon] The daily reports on Iraq's nuclear potential, especially in the last few days, worry the whole world and us. Energy and Infrastructure Minister Prof. Yuval Ne'eman is in our Jerusalem studio. Good evening to you.

[Ne'eman] Good evening.

[Shilon] We invited you to our program mainly because you are such a renowned scientist in the field of energy. The first question to ask you is whether, to the best of your knowledge, the latest reports are indeed accurate. Is this all Iraq really has?

[Ne'eman] It is impossible to tell whether this is indeed all, and that is the main question. The important thing is that here we have confirmation of what have only been suspicions. I was the one who, back in 1985, based on a few written reports regarding Iraq's purchases and preparations, assumed and wrote that they might be embarking on a new path—not a reactor, not the manufacture of plutonium, which is made in a reactor, but on the other fissionable element known as separated uranium or what is known as very enriched uranium. This uranium does not have to be produced in a reactor; instead it is necessary to have some plant to conduct the fission.

There were suspicions that the Iraqis had purchased the necessary technology and equipment, and indeed now the Americans, citing reports, claim that 500 grams have already been produced. This may not be a lot, but it is sufficient to realize that the Iraqis were able to set up the requisite installation and put the plant into operation. This means that if this had not been stopped, we would have seen regular production, and in three years several bombs—perhaps a substantial number—would presumably have been ready.

[Shilon] You mentioned three years. Can we infer from this that in the Gulf war the Iraqis did not enjoy a military-nuclear option?

[Ne'eman] I always believed that they did not have that option, but Iraq was at a stage in which it had completed preparations for production, and, as we have heard, it had even begun to produce. Again, this may not be the whole story.

[Shilon] This is precisely the point from which I want to proceed. Does the United States have a way of verifying the full and reliable information regarding what is happening in Iraq?

[Ne'eman] In fact there are only two options. The first calls for inspecting the sites the Iraqis have opened to make sure there are no signs of other projects or intelligence work and to check locations. The second way is to search, together with the local authorities—that is, if Saddam Husayn were not in power—for what had been done and where, and to locate everything. I presume that Saddam Husayn evidently preferred opening up highly secret installations. By so doing he is in fact admitting that he had embarked on manufacturing weapons, otherwise these plans would be inexplicable; it is not like a reactor that could perhaps have been a research center, although no one believed the Iraqis actually dealt in research. So he opened up to avoid bombardment. The question is whether he exposed everything or only parts.

[Shilon] By way of revealing something to conceal a lot more?

[Ne'eman] Perhaps.

[Shilon] Now let me ask you to don your political cap: Should the United States strike Iraq rather than wait for the information Iraq gives the world?

[Ne'eman] Something very strange is at work here. In fact, no one pressured the Americans to stop the day they did. The President must have decided not to risk a prolonged campaign. Additionally, there was probably not enough information about the sources of military power in the Middle East and the effect of the termination of warfare. If anyone there thought that ending the bombardment and by asking the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam Husayn, this indeed would happen—and this is what the U.S. Administration said when it called on the Iraqi people to replace the regime—well, in actual fact those who really revolted were the Shiites and the Kurds, whose problem was not Saddam Husayn but the complete ouster of Iraqi rule as such. This, strangely enough, was something in which the Americans were not interested; they want to preserve the integrity of Iraq. So the question today is what will Bush do. Will he bombard Iraq and then stop? The question is whether or not the United States truly wants to remove Saddam Husayn.

[Shilon] I would still like a more direct answer from you: Should the United States renew its offensive to obtain the overthrow of Saddam Husayn?

[Ne'eman] I think that it may have alternative ways to bring about the downfall of Saddam Husayn. If the Americans cannot engage in another method, perhaps fighting would be the way. Israel, at any rate, should not be the one to give the United States advice on this matter. The United States did not attack Iraq because of us; it is not for us that it fought this war. On the contrary, it demanded that we agree to take risks beyond those we had originally been prepared for. Thus, it is not our business today to give the United States advice.

[Shilon] The United States and other Western countries could ask Israel a certain question regarding its nuclear potential. They could say: You Israelis expect us to

eliminate Iraq's nuclear capability, while you yourselves keep the truth about your own potential from us, if international reports are to be given credence. What would we tell them?

[Ne'eman] Why should there be a need to ask such questions of Israel?

[Shilon] The question has been asked.

[Ne'eman] The answer is that there is no similarity; it is a distorted view of the situation. For instance, there was a demand for a signature on the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Saddam Husayn signed it; we did not. Saddam Husayn, who signed, now admits to having manufactured such weapons. What significance, then, does that signature have? It is interesting. Who is the aggressor and who is the responsible country that does not launch acts of aggression against its neighbors? Whatever Israel's situation, it has always said it would not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East—although there have been allegations that the situation is vague.

We have adhered to that line, and although we have a certain potential from the point of view of science and research, we never did join the nuclear club, the nuclear weapons club. We did not—although we already had that know-how, the scientific data—when the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War occurred or when other tough situations arose. Israel found itself in difficult situations, but it resisted the temptation. It may have had the capability to continue the development and to engage further in that activity, but it refrained from doing so.

Therefore, anyone coming out with accusations against us is being frivolous; he is simply seeking a way to elude responsibility for the genuine threats. The genuine threats are Saddam Husayn and al- Qadhdhafi, who does not conceal his desire for nuclear weapons and who traveled to China for that purpose. A book by Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal says that al-Qadhdhafi went to China and offered $1 billion for two bombs.

[Shilon] We are forced to conclude at this point. I thank you very much, Minister Yuval Ne'eman. With your permission, I will just repeat one phrase from your last remarks, which is that Israel has not entered the sphere of nuclear weapons. Thank you very much for coming to our Jerusalem studio.

Justice Minister on Lebanon, Peace Process

TA1107175091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Shlomo Ganor and Yoni Ben-Menahem on the weekly "Meeting" program on 11 July—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] Is there room for concern that other neighboring Arab countries may be developing nonconventional capabilities?

[Meridor] We know that a nonconventional capability, such as a chemical weapons capability, exists in the Syrian Army and elsewhere. These capabilities have even been used in other wars in the past. We remember that the Egyptians used gas in the war in Yemen already many years ago. I think that the call to liquidate all the chemical weapons arsenals is correct. We have called for an end to these horrible weapons numerous times. These are not theoretical phenomena; these are weapons that were actually used. Of course, Saddam Husayn used them in his war against the Kurds. We remember the awful pictures taken in northern Iraq. We believe that these weapons should be liquidated, and I hope that this will be achieved.

[Ben-Menahem] What about the nuclear option of the Arab states?

[Meridor] I said that we were following developments in Iraq. We know what the situation there was in the past, and I would not like to comment any further on the matter.

[Ganor] In other words, are we expecting a replay of what happened with Iraq?

[Meridor] Another replay?

[Ganor] Could Israel encounter neighboring countries, besides Iraq, with nonconventional weapons capability?

[Meridor] I said that Syria has nonconventional weapons. Syria has chemical weapons and Scud missiles. The fact that they possess these weapons is not news. I am certain in my knowledge that the Arab states, including Iraq—and certainly Syria, which is much closer—are deterred by Israel's military might. This deterrence has made sure, and will continue to guarantee, that nonconventional weapons are not employed against us because the ramifications of such an action are very clear. We know for a fact that Iraq possessed such weapons and they did not use nonconventional weapons on Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Justice Minister, in light of the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon, is there no room to change the Israeli position regarding the security zone? Should we not revise this concept?

[Meridor] The Middle East is a region that is constantly in flux, with sometimes unexpected changes. Lebanon is an even more special place where the changes are even more rapid and unpredictable. We do not think that the situation in Lebanon is normal. Lebanon has not really been a state nor has it had a real government for many years. Israel is not in Lebanon out of expansionist yearnings or the desire to control territory. Our mission is to protect Israeli citizens. We have to protect the residents of the Galilee. This is not a theoretical question, as we have already faced dangers in the past.

Today we have an effective defensive system in northern Israel. This system is made up of several layers. We have

the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] which occasionally operates in Lebanon against terrorists, either in reaction to their attacks or on its own initiative. We also have the system in the area of southern Lebanon with the South Lebanese Army [SLA], which is a Lebanese army that we try to help as much as we can. This army has a very important role in southern Lebanon. Then we have a border fence with alert systems and patrols on guard, and finally we have the IDF on our side of the border.

This system, as a totally integrated unit, constitutes an effective response to the terrorists, and that is why it is possible to lead a normal, quiet life in northern Israel. This system has proved that it works, and I do not suggest that we even hint at any possibility of changing it. I would not propose exchanging a relatively proven state of affairs, which has held stable for several years in northern Israel and southern Lebanon, after the Peace for Galilee operation, in return for speculations on whether the regime, which is a puppet regime controlled by Damascus, would suddenly be interested in Israel's welfare.

[Ganor] Does Israel's commitment to the security zone also apply to the Jazzin enclave?

[Meridor] In Lebanon, Israel is wherever it is present. We are not there out of expansionist designs but only to protect our northern border. That is how our presence in Lebanon should be construed and maintained, and nothing should happen there because of transient changes. If stability is achieved, and when there is peace between Israel and Lebanon, things may be different. Today, there is no peace between Israel and Lebanon; there are neither political negotiations nor formal relations between the two governments. Therefore, I suggest that we keep our first interest in mind—to safeguard Israel's security.

[Ben-Menahem] Nevertheless, we cannot ignore the activities carried out by the Lebanese Army. They are in the front lines, they have disarmed the militias, and they have began restoring order and perhaps even quiet. Can Israel observe all this from the sidelines without even contemplating any change in its positions?

[Meridor] We are not watching the developments in Lebanon from the sidelines but rather from very close up. We have observed this process, which has been recently accelerated. The Lebanese Army has been partially successful in disarming various militias—not all of the militias and not all of their weapons—but there has been some disarming of the militias, and there has been an attempt to reimpose the Lebanese Government's sovereignty.

Anyone who thinks that the Lebanese Government sitting in the B'abda Presidential Palace is an independent government, however, should kindly remember just who appointed that government, just who makes the strategic decisions, and to whom the Lebanese Government is beholden. This person can be found somewhere to the east in Damascus. Anyone recalling the Syrian strategic doctrine against Israel and the Syria's possible desire to use Lebanon, together with the other territories Syria controls, against Israel should adopt a more comprehensive viewpoint and not merely focus on which party controls Beirut or Sidon.

We will certainly be happy if forces hostile to Israel are disarmed or far from our borders. If such a process takes place, it will be great, but I still have not discerned any such thing. There are places with which we are so familiar: Tyre, with its adjacent refugee camps; Sidon, with al-Miyah Wa Miyah; and 'Ayn al-Hulwah, with its great concentration of terrorists. There is the Hizballah, which has still not been disarmed, and we must remember that the Hizballah is an organization that is very hostile and under the control of Iran, Syria, and elements inside Lebanon. It is a Lebanese organization with goals that are definitely anti-Israeli, among other things, and they have launched attacks. The dangers from Lebanon have not been removed, and we must bear this in mind an act accordingly.

[Ganor] That is enough about Lebanon. President Bush sounded pessimistic this week regarding the chances of successfully promoting the peace process. Does Israel share the feeling that the process, which we launched approximately 18 months ago, has failed?

[Meridor] I hope that it has not failed. I believe that we in Israel have an interest in promoting the peace process. This is not the political tactics of a party or of a government. This has been Israel's permanent interest ever since it was established. We live in the Middle East, and we know that we must be strong in order to survive. We will never put all our confidence in an agreement or in a promise. Kuwait had enough agreements and promises, and we cannot count on such things. By virtue of our strength and out of the safeguarding of Jewish and Israeli strength, we must make efforts to reach peace with our neighbors. We did this with Egypt, and we have a no-war situation with Jordan, our neighbor in the east, even though we still have no formal talks or peace.

I very much want the peace process to continue because this is in our interest. The Americans adopted an initiative following our initiative from May 1989. I think that it would be a mistake to concentrate all the efforts on Syria. The result of the regional crisis we just experienced should not be to strengthen Syria. The mistake made with Saddam Husayn, who was the good guy as opposed to Khomeyni the villain, should not be repeated with Hafiz al-Asad, who will now ostensibly be the foil to Saddam Husayn's villainy. As far as we are concerned, and this should be the position of the Western countries as well, al-Asad is a leader who has hostile designs on Israel. Therefore, I would not concentrate the efforts on convincing, entreating, or tempting Syria. The peace process can be pursued. This is a good time to promote the process, and I believe that the direction that should be taken is toward the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—if they have the courage to come and talk—and not to wait for the PLO, the Arab states, or

Jordan. Syria should stay outside, not because I do not want Syria to join the peace process—I wish they would come—but because they have obstructed every peace process up to today.

[Ganor] Does this apply whether the Syrian answer is positive or negative? Are you, Mr. Justice Minister, proposing that the Baker initiative be abandoned and that we call for negotiations with the Palestinians in the territories?

[Meridor] No I am not proposing that we abandon the initiative. Certainly not. I think that this initiative must be pursued. I would also be very happy if Syria said yes and asserted its readiness to sit down to negotiations with Israel tomorrow with no preconditions. I would be happy if they sat down with us and talked peace. Were Syria to accept the U.S. proposals and participate in the process, or at least not interfere, that would be great. I said something else. I said that we should not despair even if Syria does not want to participate. We should not beg them to take part.

The United States today has the power to implement its will, and it has the image of a superpower that has done something in the Middle East. The Arabs know that they owe the United States a great deal. The possibility of talks with the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip through elections or through an accepted delegation must be allowed to happen, and this is the basis of our peace initiative....

[Ganor, interrupting] So what is stopping us? We are right there in the territories.

[Meridor] There is not a great deal holding us back. What is holding things up is the lack of readiness on the part of the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to come and talk to us without waiting for the PLO or other external elements. I believe that the current situation is conducive to this because I very much hope that the Arabs in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nabulus, and Ramallah who are watching us now will ask themselves whether the last three and a half years have brought them any positive results. The attempt to force anything on Israel has failed dramatically. The use of stones, knives, and Molotov cocktails did no good, nor did Saddam Husayn's Scud missiles, which were a source of hope for many Arabs on the rooftops or elsewhere, who hoped that they could defeat Israel, succeed. That is why they should now ask themselves: Israel is ready and has made a far-reaching proposal....

[Ganor, interrupting] What proposal?

[Meridor] To launch talks that would lead to self-rule for the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip according to the Israeli autonomy plan, which is a good, far-reaching plan. It does not solve all the problems; it does not give any of the parties everything it wants. This is a plan that was originally proposed by Menahem Begin [in December 1977], and it is regrettable for the Arabs that they did not accept it back then. I think that it is still on the table today, and we have proposed it. If the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have the courage to take their fate into their own hands—and not to wait for the PLO, which does not want such an arrangement—let them state their readiness to come and negotiate with Israel on the basis of this plan. We have stated, and the prime minister has reiterated many times, that we are willing to launch such a move.

The Americans have initiated a two-track approach with both the Palestinians and with the Arab states. We already have peace with Egypt, and even though I am sorry that it has not been very helpful with its statements and behavior over the past few years, we still have peace. We are ready to open negotiations with Jordan tomorrow morning. If Syria comes, we will welcome it, but we should not tie all the strings together so that if one country, such as Syria, says no, we have to give up on all the other Arab countries.

[Ben-Menahem] So you are suggesting we abandon Baker's two-track approach and continue with our one-track approach?

[Meridor] No. I am very much in favor of the two-track approach, but I would just like to say....

[Ben-Menahem, interrupting] You are saying it is unrealistic?

[Meridor] I am saying two things. I certainly favor a parallel two-track approach to reach a more comprehensive solution to the problem because one cannot disconnect the Arab-Israeli conflict from the Palestinian problem, as it is called. It is part of the same problem. I only fear that if we surrender to the Syrian demands, and I hope we will not do so, Syria will not let things develop. Perhaps I am wrong, and the Syrian response will be different; let us wait and see. If the Syrians accept the plan, that will be terrific. I have not seen their acceptance of it yet, and our experience with Syria's behavior in every instance in the past is that the Syrians throw a monkey wrench in the works—sometimes diplomatic wrenches, sometimes threats of force, and sometimes the use of actual force. Remember how Bashir al-Jumayyil was murdered in Lebanon; remember what happened in 1982-83 in Lebanon after the Reagan plan, and what Syrian agents did in Jordan. That is why I very much hope that the Syrians, who need the United States today and need Saudi money, will understand that they cannot disrupt the moves toward peace. This is up to the United States. If the United States once more attempts to coddle Syria, I fear that the process will stall. [passage omitted]

Levi Says Peace Process Possible Without Syria

TA1107194491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that as long as there were foreign military forces in Lebanon, Israel must take precautionary measures. In a meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens, who is

currently visiting Israel, Levi said that we are certainly interested in a totally sovereign Lebanon, but we are no less concerned with Israel's security. Levi added that the peace process could be promoted even without Syria, and said that if Syria's response to President Bush was negative, then there was no difference between al-Asad and Saddam Husayn.

'Yes, But' by Syrians 'Completely Unacceptable'

TA1207044691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] If Syria responds negatively to President Bush, I will see no difference between Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad. A negative Syrian reply would be a form of terror aimed at blocking peace, Foreign Minister David Levi told Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens, who is visiting Israel, last night.

When Eyskens asked: What if Damascus' response is yes, but; Levi replied: Such a response would be completely unacceptable. Eyskens: What about UN participation in a conference? Levi: As long as the United Nations adheres to its anti-Israeli attitude, as expressed in its resolution comparing Zionism with racism, that organization cannot become part of the process. If the United Nations is part of the process, there will be no direct talks; there will be procrastination.

As for Syria, the West must not give it a veto power over the peace process. We can make progress without Damascus, Levi said. Saudi Arabia and Jordan are adopting a positive attitude.

Cairo, on the other hand, is convinced that al-Asad will say yes to President Bush. The Egyptian foreign minister spoke very confidently this week about an affirmative Syrian response to be given soon to the White House.

Police Recommend Charges Against Minister Sciaki

TA1207092191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The police have recommended pressing charges against Minister Avner Sciaki because of suspicions surrounding the use to which he put funds from donations he received. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum has learned that the police investigation into the affair has been concluded. In the coming days, the file will be transferred to the state prosecutor's office for a decision by the state attorney and the state prosecutor over whether to accept the recommendation.

Another investigation against the religious affairs minister involving the transfer of funds to nonprofit associations headed by relatives and close aides is also coming to an end, and the police recommendation about closing the file on that remains in force. Officers at national police headquarters stress that the investigations into Minister Sciaki's affairs ended quickly mainly due to the minister's cooperation with his interrogators.

Egyptians Invite Likud Members To Visit

5 Knesset Members Invited

TA1107143091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egypt's deputy prime minister, has invited a delegation of five Likud Knesset members [MK's] for meetings with members of the Egyptian ruling party. This was learned by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen. Ghali sent his invitation to MK Sara Doron, chairperson of the Likud Knesset faction, via the Israeli ambassador to Egypt and the Foreign Ministry. The delegation will leave for Egypt next month, although the final date or the composition of the delegation have not yet been determined. MK Doron said she regards the invitation as an important step toward improving the peaceful and friendly relations between Israel and Egypt.

Young Leadership Delegation

TA1207043491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Egypt has invited yet another Likud delegation on a visit. Egypt's minister of agriculture, who is also secretary of the ruling party, invited a delegation of the Likud young leadership to visit the country, in addition to the invitation extended to the Likud Knesset members.

Palestinians Submit Manifesto Against Settlement

TA1207105891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Jul 91 p 6

[ITIM report]

[Text] Palestinian activists have said that in the next few days they plan to step up protest activity against what they call "accelerated Jewish settlement activity in the Jerusalem area, manifested by the expropriation of land and the establishment of thousands of housing units in the area stretching from East Jerusalem to Ma'ale Adumim, as well as in north Jerusalem."

A group of seven Palestinians conferred with foreign consuls in Jerusalem at the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem yesterday. The Palestinian notables presented the foreign consuls with a special manifesto, addressed to the European countries, in which they call for an end to the increased settlement activity they see taking place in the Jerusalem area, which they perceive as affecting the chances of attaining peace in the region.

The manifesto details the construction stages and land expropriations in the Jerusalem area over the past 12 months.

Among the Palestinian personalities who participated in the meeting was Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, who recently

returned from the United States, where she and Faysal al-Husayni met with Secretary of State James Baker to discuss the peace process in the region.

The meeting was also attended by Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Arab Journalists Association; Zuhayra Kamal, head of the Palestinian Women's Labor Committees Federation in the territories; former Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah; Attorney 'Ali Ruslan; Sami 'A'id from Bi'r Zayt University; and Dr. Muhammad Jadallah.

Arab Paper on New Movement in Peace Process

TA1107144891 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Jul 91 p 1

[Editorial: "New Answers and Statements Relating to the Political Process"]

[Text] In his latest interview published by the French paper LE FIGARO yesterday, U.S. President George Bush said that he intends to fully exploit the "credibility" which the United States gained in the Gulf war. Therefore, he will not abandon his efforts to achieve a peaceful political settlement in the region. By this clear statement, the U.S. President has linked the Gulf issue and its results with the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and under cover of what he calls "credibility." He had rejected this linkage in the past and had insisted on totally separating the Middle East's problems and issues.

Anyhow, we knew, as well as the United States and its allies, that such a linkage necessarily existed despite their categorical denial or rejection. We believe that the outcome of that war, its continuing repercussions, and the rapid political developments have forced Washington to publicly acknowledge what in fact does exist. What credibility can international legitimacy have in confronting the Gulf problem if such credibility is not also achieved in settling the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with UN resolutions and UN participation alongside all the other parties concerned?

According to various sources, it seems that the political process, which had almost stopped at Secretary of State James Baker's last trip several weeks ago, is now ripe to move again. The statement by Bush himself to this French newspaper about "continuing the efforts" was not, at the same time, unconnected to these sources that said that the Syrian response to the old U.S. message will provide a positive conclusion. Although Damascus has still not revealed the content of this response, the Cairo-based AL-AHRAM newspaper reported yesterday that the Syrian and Egyptian answers open the way for continuing the political process, especially since Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is to meet his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, in Athens next week to discuss the continuation of this process.

More important than all this is whether a change has occurred in the Israeli position. Has Yitzhaq Shamir's government altered this intransigent position, or is it still rejecting?

Commentary on 'Arafat's 'Gift' to Lebanese Army

JN1207154791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1335 GMT 12 Jul 91

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear Listeners: Yasir 'Arafat, who calls himself president of the state of Palestine, as do his supporters, and who is boasting and acting as though he were actually president of a state that really existed, has decided, according to reports, to give a present to the Lebanese Army. 'Arafat's gift is the heavy- and medium-caliber weapons he was forced to take out of Lebanon's camps and hand over to the Lebanese Army after three days of battles last week between his organization and the Lebanese Army.

This was confirmed by reports citing Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon, who played the role of mediator between the Lebanese Government and 'Arafat's organization, and who returned to Beirut last Monday following a visit to Tunis, where he met with Yasir 'Arafat. Muhsin Ibrahim said 'Arafat told him that the Palestinian leadership believes that maintaining the security of the camps in Lebanon was the responsibility of the Lebanese Government.

Thus, 'Arafat abandoned the pretext of the camps' security or the protection of Palestinians in Lebanon's camps, after having used and adhered to this pretext over the past years. By abandoning this pretext, 'Arafat has admitted an already known reality: that if the Palestinians in Lebanon need any protection, they need only to be protected from the evils of the 'Arafatist organizations. Were it not for the erroneous, destructive policies of the leaders of those organizations and their interference in Lebanon's domestic affairs, and were it not for the presence of these organizations and their being posted among civilians and near schools, hospitals, and mosques, the Palestinians would not have needed any protection.

In other words, the Palestinians in Lebanon's camps will not need any protection as long as they abide by the law and public order, respect legitimacy and their status as guests in Lebanon, and do not commit any aggression against any party whatsoever. Since 'Arafat has decided to give a present to Lebanon's Army this week, we can say that the best present he and the other worthless Palestinian leaders could give to the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere is resignation, and giving a chance to other credible and qualified leaders who can distinguish between the possible and the impossible. The matter has reached its climax, and the Palestinian people

are fed up with the disasters that have been caused to them by their worthless leaders and their organizations over the past decades.

Shamir Meets With Belgian Foreign Minister

TA1207105091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Visiting Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens today conferred with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. The prime minister told him the European countries can play a positive role in the Middle East peace process if they adopt a more balanced attitude to the conflict.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 12 July quotes Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as telling the Belgian foreign minister that "a peace accord with Jordan and an interim settlement with the Palestinians providing them with full autonomy can be reached. This has been one of the main problems of the conflict since the peace accord with Egypt was achieved. Syria, he recalled, has still not responded to the Bush letter, but we must not be dependent on Syrian answers alone."]

Reporter Jack Katzenell asked Eyskens if it is true that the EC will refuse to grant Israel associate status unless it achieves peace with the Palestinians and the Arab countries:

[Begin recording] [Eyskens] There is no conditionality as such. We have to examine that question just by considering the economic aspects of it, but there is plain evidence that although we could start negotiations on including Israel in a kind of European economic space, the total implementation of such close cooperation is only possible provided the environment here is an environment of peace and cooperation with the other countries. For instance, one of the basic elements of such cooperation is the economy of water, the whole problem of water supply. This cannot be solved only with Israel and in Israel; you need cooperation with a country like Jordan. So, if there are not normal relations between Israel and Jordan, you cannot envisage, in terms of efficiency, such a kind of European economic space extended to this part of the world.

[Katzenell] So, in practical terms, it means: No peace—no integration with Europe?

[Eyskens] No. This is an extreme formulation. I am just saying that if you want the implementation of very close economic cooperation, you need peace. [end recording]

Shamir's 'Personal Appeal' To End Arab Boycott

TA1207063491 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir has written a personal appeal to each head of the top seven industrialized nations—including President Bush—to urge them to declare at their annual summit next week that they will no longer comply with the Arab boycott.

The appeal also encouraged each country to initiate legislation outlawing private-sector compliance with the ban. Avi Pazner, a senior aide to Shamir, confirmed the appeal, saying "we believe the issue will be raised at the meetings" in London next week, but he declined to forecast the summit's results.

The Shamir appeal to Bush, written earlier this week, was on Wednesday echoed by 83 U.S. Senators, who called upon Bush to make the issue a "high priority" at the summit and press U.S. allies to accept it.

The summit, known as the Group of Seven, or G-7, consists of the leaders of the U.S., Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada, and Italy, along with the European Community (EC) Commission president. [passage omitted]

There was some concern in government circles here that such an appeal to world leaders might invite an accompanying resolution at G-7 condemning Israeli settlements in the territories, but Shamir decided to send the letters anyway. In one statement made earlier this week by Bush, however, the president spoke out against the Arab boycott and settlements. [passage omitted]

At a Ben-Gurion Airport press conference yesterday at the end of a two-day visit here, EC Commissioner for Mediterranean policy Abel Matutes was non-committal on the boycott issue. He would not comment on what the head of the Brussels-based EC Commission would do at the G-7 meeting.

He would only say his group is waiting to hear from its legal adviser, who is researching the idea of European-wide legislation to terminate the ban before deciding whether to act.

Shots Fired at Jordan Valley Patrol

TA1207043391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] In the Jordan Valley, several shots were fired last night at an Israeli Army patrol 3 km south of Kibbutz Gesher. There were no injuries and no damage. Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent says that the shots were fired from Jordanian territory. The soldiers returned the fire.

Arab Killed in Hospital; Gaza Exams Held

TA1007084591 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 91 p 12

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Three men walked into a Gaza hospital yesterday, donned masks, pulled out hatchets and killed an alleged informer, Gaza sources said.

Lutfi Abu-Ra's, 26, who was recovering from a beating he had received the day before, tried to flee but was cut down by his attackers who entered the Al-Shifa' government hospital in early morning.

Military sources confirmed the killing.

The attack occurred on a strike day marking the 43rd month since the beginning of the intifada as soldiers searched for the attackers of two Israelis shot this week in the Rafah area.

It provided further evidence that public calls by the intifada leadership to stop killings without trial have decreased attacks in the West Bank but not in Gaza.

West Bank military sources say that they believe Ramallah's Israeli-appointed deputy mayor Nichola 'Aql, who was stabbed last Thursday, was attacked because he refused to give in to an extortion attempt by Islamic fundamentalists and not because he was considered an Israeli agent.

Israel radio reported that a Fatah leaflet was issued condemning the attack.

In East Jerusalem and the West Bank the tawjihi [general secondary] graduate examinations were not held because of the strike, but many students failed to turn up for the examinations on Monday because of Jordan's decision not to grade them following reports of widespread cheating.

In Gaza, the examinations, under the Egyptian curriculum, were held. Local observers noted that cheating appeared to be widespread. In one school students opened books and consulted in groups while frustrated teachers looked on, powerless to stop them.

There is a widespread feeling that Egypt will follow Jordan's decision and not recognize the examinations. Palestinian educators and activists have expressed support for this step, arguing that while it penalizes the students who do not cheat, the examinations will be worthless anyway as all Palestinians will be penalized by universities abroad and the educational system will be ruined if cheating is not stamped out.

Arens Approves 'Sweeping' 10-Year Military Plan

TA1207070391 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jul 91 p 1

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] Tel Aviv—The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] sweeping budgetary and strategic plan for the coming decade moved a step closer to implementation yesterday, as Defense Minister Moshe Arens received and approved the outlines of the program.

Finalization of details by senior IDF and Defense Ministry planners is expected to require several more months.

Reviewing the principal proposal, Arens expressed regard for the work that went into its preparation.

The plan, which is also subject to Knesset committee and cabinet review, is expected to institute far-reaching realignments of IDF resources and operative priorities.

The plan is expected to call for the elimination of 3,000 career officer positions in the next four years, with the cuts to be distributed proportionally at all levels of rank.

At least 1,000 civilian defense employee positions will also be cut.

A number of IDF corps are expected to be phased out, with the Training Branch already undergoing elimination.

The Women's Corps, the Education Corps, and the Gadna' Youth Corps are likely to be eliminated as well, along with Army Radio and dozens of IDF publications.

Funds made available from the cutbacks are expected to be concentrated in sophisticated weaponry systems.

The plan has caused controversy and dissension in the IDF, with each department expecting cutbacks trying to emphasize their significance and save their positions.

Prime Minister Al-Masri Presents Policy Statement

JN1107133491 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1106 GMT 11 Jul 91

["Full recording" of policy statement by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri at the House of Representatives in Amman on 11 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O ye who believe, fear God and always say a word directed to the right, that He may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive you your sins. He that obeys God and His apostle has already attained the highest achievement. [Koranic verses]

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

On behalf of my colleagues, the members of the government, which His Majesty King Husayn honored me to form, and myself, I am pleased to salute your honorable house and present the government's policy statement, beseeching Almighty God to safeguard Jordan and to help us all pursue its democratic march for the good of our dear Jordan—the citizens and homeland. I also beseech Almighty God to grant us determination to promote Jordan's wellbeing under the shade of our strong tree of unity, the ambitions of our historic leadership, and the pride of our people.

While presenting its policy statement to your esteemed house, the government has adhered to the Constitution in letter and spirit, the Charter as a vision and future, the integrity of the rule as a goal and foundation, faithfulness to Jerusalem as a trust, message, and liberation, and allegiance to the nation and its immortal Islamic message of unity, awakening, and history.

The government and I are honored to express to his majesty the leader of the homeland our pride, deepest thanks, and sincerest loyalty for his full confidence in us. We implore God to give us the power to embody the letter of designation and to translate its guidelines from the realm of hope to the field of action, and to achieve what we aspire to in order to promote the wellbeing of the homeland, honor our commitment to the people, and work for the unity of the nation.

While assuming its responsibilities, the government is aware that it will begin its activity in a climate of freedom, amity, and tolerance that is prevailing throughout the homeland, after the practice of democracy in Jordan has become a unique experience in our region. This experience increased the firmness of our people, convinced them of the soundness of their choice, consolidated their coalescence with their leadership, confidence in their institutions, and the defense of its gains. This democratic experience has also impressed the image of pride on all free men in the entire world, given that our people have faced difficult circumstances, and chosen the path that is closest to the liberation of Palestine and closely associated with the liberation of the nation from subservience and subordination, no matter how rugged, harsh, or distant this path might be.

Under the prevalent democratic climate to whose creation your esteemed house has contributed, the government presents its policy statement asserting to you its full concern to cooperate with your house, out of its belief in the grave responsibilities of the new stage that require constant consultation and exchange of views in the interest of our people, homeland, and nation.

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

The government's policy statement includes its approaches and policies for the domestic and foreign fields and how it envisions dealing with the problems resulting from international changes, developments in the Arab arena, and the facts and realities of the Jordanian arena. These approaches and policies follow from constitutional tenets and foundations, concepts of the National Charter, which outline the features of the future approach of the government's action and its policies in various fields, and the letter of designation, which specifies the responsibilities of this stage, primarily entrenching national unity, promoting the march of democracy in the country, deepening its concept, and broadening its base so as to go beyond political pluralism and ultimately bringing about effective participation in decisionmaking on the basis of respect for others' opinions and not monopolizing the truth.

In order to achieve these great ambitions, the government will work to consolidate the foundations of the state of law and the respect for citizens' rights, emphasize the principles of legitimacy and separation of authorities, and promote the citizen who clings to his genuine Arab and Islamic values and who understands the spirit of the age and its requirements according to the principle of allegiance to the homeland and commitment to the causes of the nation with full awareness and responsibility.

This government is determined to establish the foundations of democracy and to reinforce its pillars on the bases of political pluralism, institutionalized work, and the rule of law. This necessitates that legislation concerning constitutional liberties, including the Parties Law and the Press and Publications Law, be promulgated. To this end, and for the democratic process to be complete, I am delighted to communicate to your honorable house that my government has initiated measures to repeal martial law. This was an urgent demand by your honorable house and by our entire dear people. We hope that your house will give priority to the completion of draft laws referred to it, which cover the legislative vacuum affecting issues that are not to be dealt with by civilian courts before these laws take force. Once these laws come into force, martial law will be fully repealed. I also declare that the government has begun to study the

files of those convicted on political charges in preparation for making an appropriate decision regarding them.

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

The challenges faced by the government—unemployment, the high cost of living, the low standard of living, and water and environmental problems—require cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities to prepare the appropriate climate for confronting them, to lay down practical and realistic plans and programs, and to provide the required financing to overcome these problems. I have to indicate that the difficulties faced by the Jordanian state revenues continue to exist. These problems have been further exacerbated and complicated by the bad results of the Gulf war on inter-Arab relations, as well as its negative political, economic, and social impact on our country which is shouldering national and pan-Arab commitments toward confronting the existing and continuing state of aggression, represented by the Israeli presence and the growing pressures this presence puts on our meager resources.

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

Aware of the importance of defending the homeland and safeguarding its internal and external security, and taking pride in the role played by our Armed Forces, the government will spare no effort to support them and to provide what would enable them to perform their duty so as to remain the homeland's fence and impregnable shield and to ensure its security and independence. The Armed Forces will be supported in terms of training, armament, and professionalism so that they may always be qualified to bear their dear name, the Arab Army, and so that they may remain a pillar in defending the homeland and a vanguard force of liberation. The government will also be careful to extend full support to the national security forces to enable them to perform their duties of providing the requirements of security and tranquility throughout the entire homeland. The government will be eager to maintain the cohesiveness and strength of our internal front, to bolster the means of stability and the supremacy of the law and order, and to safeguard citizens and their property within the framework of respect for citizens, preserving their dignity, and maintaining their freedom and constitutional rights within an atmosphere of confidence and mutual affection between the security departments and the entire people.

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

As the judiciary is one of the three independent authorities of the state, the government asserts full eagerness in the inviolability of the judiciary. It will work to promote the status of the judiciary and to enable it to improve its performance. Having adopted practical measures to repeal the martial courts, the government is aware that the judiciary system, after this big stride, will need to promote experience and efficiency. It will also need to know more and to be well versed in specializations and the delicate and technical cases which will be heard by civil courts. This requires continued training for judges and members of the judiciary. This also requires advanced measures and means of action.

Aware of the volume and quality of the new stride facing the judiciary and of the heavy responsibilities it bears toward speedy settlement of cases, the government will support the judiciary with all it needs, including a proper and suitable place to absorb the judiciary and its various courts and accompanying and related services. This is in addition to providing the judiciary with qualified human resources.

Mr. Speaker: The talk about growth, development, and achievements will remain only slogans unless the means to realize them and the resources to implement them are made available at the least possible cost and within the shortest period of time. No matter how great the material resources may be, they will not be sufficient to realize these aims. Therefore, emphasis will be placed on trained and qualified human resources because they are the sector that realizes these achievements and hastens the pace to reach the targets of development by proper use of available resources. While aware of the administrative realities prevailing in our establishments and the improvement and development that the administrative body needs, the government also realizes the difficulties it is facing to realize this objective within a short period of time, given the current economic and social circumstances. The government is also aware of the diversity of legislation and the interconnection of their shortcomings. It is aware of the administrative red tape. All these contribute to confusion and weak performance.

Based on this awareness, the government will devote its care toward developing the government's administrative structure by following up the implementation of the public administration development program, which aims to promote the efficiency and performance of the government's administration based on primary dimensions. These include public service and its classification, job requirements, employee performance and the performance of the administrative units, simplifying the procedures of administrative work, organization and methods, defining the points of interconnection and duplication, and developing means of coordination and suitable forms of relationships. They also include organizing the central system of supervision and inspection, devising a national data system, organizing programs to qualify and train human resources, defining the needs of the Jordanian labor market from among the university and college graduates, and putting the right person in the right place.

The government's program includes improving the organizational units responsible for administrative development and improving their performance, including that of the Public Administration Institute. The government will carefully study the aspects of the local government system with the aim of benefiting from them if they prove effective. In the coming phase, the government

will take the first step to realize decentralization by developing the role of the government's administrative units in the governorates.

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

Jordan is situated at the heart of Arab and regional events. The Palestinian cause tops the list of its worries and concerns because it is not only the cause of a fraternal people but is the Jordanians' own first national and pan-Arab cause. Jordan is the country most affected by the development of this cause, be it positive or negative. And because the Palestinian and Jordanian people are twins, what affects the Palestinian people affects us. We do not have to overemphasize this.

Over the past decades, Jordan has laid down principled rules in dealing with the Palestine question, and never budged from them. The implementation of international legitimacy, with a view to ending the Israeli occupation, is the basis for achieving a just, honorable, and peaceful settlement for the Palestine question, ensuring the Palestinian people's right to decide their fate on their national soil. Jordan will not abandon any Palestinian or Arab right, nor will it be an alternative to the PLO.

Jordan continues to welcome any international effort leading to this end. Jordan is of the view that the participation of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, is a vital issue that cannot be ignored in dealing with the Palestinian dimension of settling the Arab-Israeli struggle. Jordan is also of the view that coordination between it and the PLO must proceed in a positive and constructive manner. Jordan affirms that alleviating the suffering of our people in the occupied territories and supporting their heroic steadfastness is a pan-Arab duty to which we are committed.

Iraq—the land and the nation—is now exposed to danger and needs all its brothers to confirm their commitment to the unity of its territory and its right to lead a dignified life. It also needs their commitment to lift the siege imposed on it, which no longer has any justification, and to end foreign intervention in its affairs. This is our duty and the duty of all other Arab countries to perform our role and responsibilities in preserving our nation's dignity and the sanctity of our great Arab homeland's soil.

Proceeding from our belief in the unity of our Arab nation and the destiny of our generations, it is our duty as part of implementing this great target to exert all our efforts on providing the means to attain this goal and rally the Arab countries around it. Jordan, which has always believed in this goal, must take the initiative to set the appropriate atmosphere to remove all blemishes that have stained inter-Arab relations, especially between neighbors.

In this field, the Arab League must also perform its role in a way compatible with the current stage the Arab nation is going through and meet the ambitions of its people. Overcoming the state of division and fragmentation currently prevalent in our nation and moving to the state of cordiality and rallying of the ranks will continue to be a demand the government will seek to achieve since we know that history will not have mercy on us if we fail and allow the hateful state of division to persist in destroying our nation and others to spoil our territory and resources and destroy the future of our sons.

In the international field, we need to grasp the radical changes in international relations and new centers of power, as well as the policies and trends that follow such changes and reflect a new reality. We need to realize these facts and prepare ourselves for what serves our interests in light of these changes. We need to open up to this world with a spirit of cooperation and within the principle of mutual respect and benefit with the objective of securing and protecting our national interests, and stressing our vanguard role in serving our Arab and Islamic causes.

The government will continue to bolster the ties of fraternity with Islamic countries and set up bridges of cooperation with friendly countries on the basis of mutual respect and interest and in a way that befits the collective Arab stand, which we will bring back. We will also strengthen our participation and role in all Arab, Islamic, and international organizations.

Economy:

Although the Jordanian economy has shown a good capability to absorb the negative effects of the Gulf crisis, it continues to suffer from major difficulties, some of which stem from structural reasons such as resources and their availability to befit developmental requirements. This crisis lead to the highlighting and aggravating of these difficulties. Other problems stem from the negative effects of this crisis on the production and social sectors and the state general budget by increasing the burdens on it and widening the gap in the Jordanian balance of payments. The difficulties and challenges that confront the Jordanian economy in the near future can be summarized as follows:

1. To resume economic growth capable of persevering and enduring political and economic fluctuations by strengthening the pillars of self-sufficiency, exploiting current productive potentials to the fullest, rallying local assets, and attracting foreign capital to invest in the production sectors. At the same time, we will concentrate on the mining sector, since it is a pioneering sector, and intensify positive economic interaction with the international economy.

2. To decrease unemployment by tackling the causes of imbalance in the job market and encouraging investment in projects that provide a higher number of job opportunities in the production sectors.

3. To deal with the problem of poverty, improving the standard of living, and providing basic services to all

social strata in the various provinces of the kingdom. This will be done with available financial resources.

4. To exert efforts to absorb Jordanian nationals returning from abroad.

The government stresses that sustained, sound economic growth and a favorable climate lead to increased investment and are conditional on its success in correcting internal and external imbalances. Hence, to forestall a repetition of crises and the kind of instability that prevailed in the late 1980's, addressing the underlying causes of these imbalances will form the backbone of its economic program, focusing on the following goals:

1. A cutback in the rate of consumption of the gross national product.

2. A reduction in the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments.

3. A reduction in the general budget deficit.

To promote these goals, the government will devise packages of comprehensive and sectoral policies and execute them through a national, comprehensive plan based on the following fundamental principles:

1. A healthy investment environment.

2. The right climate for spurring investments by the private sector.

3. Opening up to and interaction with the international community, especially the Arab and Islamic communities, and regional and global organizations.

4. Expansion in the mining sector.

5. The government will continue to make basic goods and services available while retaining their price levels, guided by a policy of rationalized consumption and aimed at subsidizing the deserving sectors of society.

6. The government will secure technical services supporting production and export activities.

7. The government will secure decent infrastructure and public utilities.

8. The government will back the Central Bank's effort to streamline the banking system.

9. The government will adopt such financial policies as will advance sustainable economic and social growth.

10. The government will work to ease the burden of Jordan's external debts, and strive for their relief.

On domestic and foreign borrowing, the government plans to stick to the provisions outlined by the general budget law approved by your esteemed house and those sanctioned by the laws and regulations in force. A draft bill on the external public debt will be presented to you to regulate and control the management of this debt.

Unemployment and poverty:

The government is aware that unemployment and pockets of poverty are a major challenge to our society and so call for a pooling of efforts to neutralize their negative consequences. Modern studies point to increased pockets of poverty as a result of the economic conditions the country has been experiencing, especially more recently.

Fundamentally, unemployment has been the product of an imbalance between the output of the educational system and the needs of development required by the job market, thus producing a surplus of degree-holders and a shortage in unskilled labor whose specialties are similar to the bulk of foreign labor. Unemployment figures differ according to the concepts defining the problem.

In the opinion of the government, easing these two problems calls for addressing their causes and this is a time-consuming process. The government is determined to find mid-term solutions through the following measures:

1. Energization of economic activity, widening of the productive base, and giving precedence to an intensive employment of labor.

2. Institutional and bureaucratic organization.

3. Government capital spending.

4. The social package.

Following are the policies that will be adopted on each of these measures:

First, concerning the reactivation of economic activity and the expansion of the production base:

1. Activating public and private investment, and giving a major role to the private sector and its investments that can provide more job opportunities.

2. Activating and financing the development and employment fund to promote and expand its role.

3. Intensifying the education and training programs in a way to serve the society's needs and all activities in the kingdom through the vocational training establishment and the specialized vocational institutes, and financing them.

Second, concerning the administrative and institutional organization:

1. Modernizing legislation and regulations for the Ministry of Labor and expanding the establishment of employment offices.

2. Intensifying contacts with foreign states to find untraditional work markets and provide incentives to do so.

3. Organizing, regulating, and controlling non-Jordanian labor.

4. Encouraging the establishment of employment companies and promoting and organizing the marketing of labor abroad.

5. Studying the output of educational institutes, particularly higher education institutions, and advising them to secure the actual needs of the internal labor market and what is available in the foreign markets.

Third, concerning the government capital expenditure:

1. Accelerating the implementation of the projects of the current capital budget.

2. Increasing the balance of the capital expenditure allocations for the year 1992 to be approximately 10 percent of the GNP.

3. Concentrating on small and medium government projects that provide more job opportunities.

4. Securing allocations that are necessary for the duration and expansion of social services in light of the available resources.

Fourth, concerning the social package:

1. Activating and financing the national aid fund.

2. Activating the official and private voluntary institutions and supporting them through expanding the base of those who benefit from them.

3. Reactivating the role of social centers and increasing their services.

4. Continuing to secure and subsidize basic commodities, and making them available to those entitled to them.

5. Securing social, educational, and health services, and distributing them fairly.

Agriculture and Water:

The government is aware of the deterioration in the situation of the agricultural and water sectors. It will do its utmost to tackle the problems of these sectors, particularly the scarcity and contamination of water, marketing bottlenecks, and the indebtedness of small farmers by adopting effective methods apart from the government routine, proceeding from the fact that achieving water and food security supports national security, and that the farmer who is attached to his land needs from us every support, care, and appreciation.

The government will lay out a stable agricultural strategy aimed at improving farmers' economic and social conditions by adopting bases that include providing a stable climate for attracting investments into the agricultural sector; developing agricultural resources, such as water, arable land, pastures, and forests; and intensifying the use of modern techniques in the management of these resources. This strategy will stress coordination among concerned establishments in this sector, bilateral and international cooperation to increase agricultural trade, and a better exploitation of Jordan's relative peculiarity and agricultural integration. To this end, the government will adopt immediate measures to confront agricultural problems, including organizing farmers and enhancing their participation in the administration of this sector. The government will also work to tackle marketing bottlenecks by opening new markets, implementing a national program financed by the government to tackle the agricultural pest problem, and rationalizing and organizing the use of water so as to ensure its full exploitation.

The government will also pay special attention to financing, the unification of the sources of agricultural loans, and the rescheduling of loans. The government will also work to tackle the problem of farmers' debts, especially small farmers. The government will work to facilitate the exploitation of state lands in national agricultural projects. The government will also encourage the establishment of productive cooperatives and will work to protect farmers from any exploitation. It will work to define a framework for securing agricultural input for farmers with appropriate terms for them. The government will enhance veterinary services and guidance throughout the Kingdom and will lay down national programs to preserve forestry and to expand its area. It will promote and develop pastures, and will pay attention to animal wealth, developing high lands, and opening more agricultural roads.

The government asserts that the water problem heads the challenges facing Jordan and constitutes an obstacle to its economic and social progress. Needless to say, this problem goes beyond Jordan to become a problem affecting the entire region. In view of the importance of this subject and its political dimensions, the government will work in coordination with fraternal Arab governments to exploit common water resources. The government will lay out a comprehensive strategy to tackle the water problem for the next two decades and to ensure the best exploitation of water resources. The government will focus on the following:

1. Conducting various water studies to acquire more information about water reserves and the possibility of drilling more deep wells.

2. The establishment of dams, including the al-Wahdah, al-Karamah, Wadi al-Mawjib, Wadi al-Haydan, and Wadi al-Tannur dams, as well as desert dams.

3. Setting priorities for water usage, reducing lost water, upgrading the efficiency of various water systems, completing the establishment of sewage systems, and upgrading the waste water purification and use.

4. Promoting water management by training manpower and establishing a water information system to help make the required decisions to protect water resources in terms of quantity and quality.

The government has begun to conduct the required studies to specify the causes of the pollution of some major water sources, especially the Nahr al-Zarqa' and King Talal Dams. Until these studies are completed, the government will take the immediate necessary measures to control the quality of water which pours into these sources. The government will set standards and specifications to prevent the recurrence of pollution in a manner that ensures the interests of farmers and industrialists working around these sources.

In order to maintain a continued and stable water policy, the government will study the formation of a higher national water committee.

Industry, mining, and investment:

The government believes that developing the industrial, mining, and investment sector largely contributes to tackling imbalances and increasing self-reliance. Jordanian industrial enterprises have demonstrated efficiency in increasing production and marketing their produce in traditional and new markets.

One of the mainstays of the government's economic policy is to make expansion of production of phosphates and potash and their derivatives play a pioneering role in increasing production and activating the economic endeavors. This sector requires our full support which could be extended through support services for investment and production, and specifically through concluding bilateral agreements and trade protocols which give Jordanian commodities customs privileges in foreign markets to enable them to be competitive.

The government will work to review industry laws and measures to render them more flexible and efficient in granting the necessary exemptions in order to encourage investment and make these laws and measures compatible with economic developments.

Energy:

The government will work to expand the storage capacities of crude oil and its derivatives. It will continue to give special attention to oil and gas prospecting operations through reviewing oil prospecting programs and methods and studying the feasibility of establishing a specialized national company to undertake exploration activities, and cooperate in this regard with Arab and foreign companies. Furthermore, the government will work to increase the use of natural gas to generate electricity with a view to reducing our fuel oil imports. Likewise, the government will seek to study the possible use of natural gas for industrial purposes once the presence of large reserves is ascertained.

In mineral resources, the government will seek to intensify mineral drilling operations in the kingdom. In addition to this, it will conduct studies to concentrate raw minerals to make them acquire the industrial specifications required for various industrial and export purposes.

The government will give special attention to the studies related to the alternative sources of energy available in the local environment, especially with regard to the possible utilization of shale oil, solar energy, and wind power. It will seek to develop these sources of energy. Moreover, it will strive to expand the electricity network to make it cover the rural and residential areas which have not thus far been covered by electricity in light of the available resources.

Tourism and antiquities:

The government will seek to draw up a comprehensive tourism plan to effect a qualitative leap in this sector and to develop it, including cultural, curative, and domestic tourism. Moreover, the government will seek to create the proper investment climate, the proper incentives, and the necessary infrastructure to attract private sector investments. It will seek to develop hotel and tourism training to upgrade the efficiency of those working in this sector with a view to improving services at these tourist facilities. Through this plan, we hope that we will make the tourism sector a main source of foreign currency and a creator of job opportunities.

The government will work to protect, maintain, and rehabilitate ruins and conduct archaeological excavations as well. It will preserve Arab and Islamic historical sites and make them known to people to ensure the enhancement of national unity and pan-Arab pride.

Transportation, roads, and communications:

Out of the government's awareness of the need to benefit from Jordan's central geographic location which makes use of transportation, roads, and communications an important pillar of economic development, the government, in addition to completing work on the major and secondary road networks, will give special priority to agricultural and rural roads, and the maintenance of highways to preserve the efficiency of the infrastructure and attain public safety.

The government will work to develop the port of al-'Aqabah and its free zone, and will increase its loading capabilities. The government will also install the necessary new rail links to modernize the Hattiyah to al-'Aqabah railroad to upgrade its efficiency and increase its capacity. The government will also study the possibility of installing a new railroad to serve the al-Shidiyah phosphate mines.

The government will also pay special attention to expanding and developing the domestic communications network, and update satellite communications with certain countries.

The government will pay attention to Royal Jordanian Airlines to maintain it as the main bridge linking Jordan to the other countries. It will take the necessary measures to transform it into a public shareholding company and

make it become a sound economic model that will be in line with the spirit of the age and the development it is witnessing.

Public works and housing:

The government will work to update the technical specifications dealing with the construction of roads, bridges, and buildings and to improve the levels of their implementation. It will also emphasize the importance of using locally-produced materials, upgrading the efficiency of those working in this sector, and will pay attention to local contractors and local engineering offices, in terms of classifying them and updating legislation dealing with this sector, including the standardized contractor forms and the unification of the measures for tenders. The government will also do its best to create working opportunities abroad for qualified Jordanian contractors and engineering offices and will give them priority in the implementation of government projects whether the construction of road networks, or government buildings.

The government will also work to make housing available to those in the low-income bracket and those who have a fixed income in the various parts of the kingdom and within the limits of their financial means. This will be carried out through the implementation of a national housing strategy that was prepared to attain this objective in terms of providing lands, reassessing the land planning regulations, financing conditions, and facilitating the pertinent procedures.

This strategy also seeks to encourage the private sector to increase its participation in this activity. To avoid any duplication, the draft bill on the establishment of the General Housing and Urban Development Corporation has been referred to your esteemed house to be studied and adopted. The basis of future housing plans will be the construction of integrated housing projects that are in line with development projects.

Supply:

The government will do its best to secure basic foodstuffs, stabilize their prices, and to continue to subsidize them in a manner that will benefit only those who should be supported. It will also work to make fodder available at suitable prices to develop animal resources, and organize the distribution of fodder in an equitable manner. The government will encourage the efforts of Jordanian society for the protection of the consumer for rationalizing consumption and will also support consumer societies to provide the necessary products at the best of prices.

Health:

The government will work on applying justice and equality among workers in the field of health throughout the kingdom. It will pay great attention to developing and advancing this sector through expanding basic health services such as clinics and comprehensive health centers, and increasing the number of beds in hospitals to include all sectors of the population, especially in the rural and desert areas. The government will modernize the health insurance scheme to prepare for the implementation of comprehensive health insurance to all citizens. The government will work on raising the standard of performance in the Health Ministry's facilities to improve the quality of services by training workers in health centers and hospitals, employing cadres according to basic standards such as qualifications, competence, expertise, and needed specialities, and using moral and material incentives. The government stresses the need for organizing the medicine market and guaranteeing availability at appropriate prices, as well as providing the circumstances of services, investment, and organization for Jordan to become an advanced scientific center and major reference for the needs of the region as a whole.

Social development:

The government will continue its interest in protecting and caring for the less privileged among society to rehabilitate them. It will pay due attention to the upbringing of children and their protection from homelessness, as well as improving the status of women and integrating them into the development process. It will also work on making individuals, families, and local societies more self-reliant through activating the role of the development and employment fund. It will finance small and medium-sized projects to combat pockets of poverty and provide job opportunities for the poor, in addition to integrating them in the production process.

The government will give due attention to caring for, training, and rehabilitating the handicapped through social institutions under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Social Development. This will be done by encouraging the voluntary and private sector to set up social institutions to look after these people and implement a health insurance scheme for poor families to insure those families that are not able to pay the costs of treatment. The government will continue to support the national aid fund to provide help to poor families based on comprehensive studies on the situation, circumstances, and locations of these families.

Municipal, rural, and environmental affairs:

The municipal and rural councils are suffering from financial and administrative problems which have lead to a deterioration of the level of services and an increase in migration from rural areas to cities to seek basic services and job opportunities. Therefore, the government will work on supporting these councils so that they can provide basic services to the citizens, especially in the rural and desert areas.

The government will exert efforts to modernize administration in the Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the local councils and expand decentralization. The government will give due attention to regulating the use of land, the expansion of cities and villages, and the advancement of rural areas to protect agricultural lands, the

environment, and the most exploited locations. It will review structural and organizational plans of towns and villages with the intention of modernizing them, protecting agricultural land, and decreasing the financial burdens on property. It will facilitate various land projects, such as building licenses and planning processes.

The government will pay great attention to the Jordanian environment to protect it from pollution through the national strategy for protecting the environment which is now being formulated and finalized. It will set the appropriate plan to implement and translate this strategy on projects that can be financed by international sides. It will work on setting laws, regulations, and necessary instructions to implement this strategy and intensify the program to activate the role of the official and unofficial establishments, educate them, and coordinate their actions in this field.

Returnees constitute an additional burden on the national economy and government services. This is in addition to the financial cost entailed and a dwindling of remittances by Jordanian expatriates, which represented a major source of Jordan's foreign currency.

The government will strive to absorb these returnees in the country's economic structure so that they play a key role in the national economy.

The Ministry of Awqaf:

The government will strive to develop the style of sermon-giving and guidance to the community with the aim of safeguarding national unity, firming up its bases, propagating Islamic culture, directing public conduct toward benevolent and tolerant values and national unity, and fostering the values of sacrifice and selflessness. We will promote these goals by supporting the personnel of guidance with skilled cadres and qualified mosque preachers, and promoting the message of the Faculty of Da'wah and the Fundamentals of Religion as well as graduating propagators capable of spreading Islamic thought and understanding.

Further, the government will work to consolidate the Ifta' system with researchers specialized in Islamic shari'a so that the Ifta' Council will be able to achieve its goals and fulfills its duties.

Due attention will be given to investing the Awqaf land to supplement the budget of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. The government will develop the work of the Zakah Fund and increase public participation in the collection of zakah to help it keep up the financial support for the deserving and to the families of the intifadah martyrs to enhance their steadfastness.

The government will continue to support the Islamic Awqaf system in the West Bank, particularly in Jerusalem so as to foster the spirit of sacrifice and steadfastness. It will also continue to support the faculties of da'wah and Islamic science and the shari'a schools in the West Bank cities.

The government will give maximum attention to complete the restoration of the al-Aqsa Mosque through the restoration committee.

The government will strive to implement a plan to develop the tombs of the companions of the Prophet that symbolize Arab and Islamic sacrifice and jihad.

Culture:

In the area of culture, the government will work to foster cultural creativity and the notion of democratic concept so as to advance a commitment to human rights and the right of the individual to free expression.

The government will strive to give a higher profile to Arabic and its use in various areas. It will also give due attention to the legacy of the nation as well as to its dissemination. It will also work to entrench national culture and energize the role of the National Library, the Center of Documents and Documentation and the Royal Cultural Center and enhance their performance.

The government will continue to support cultural and art bodies. It will publish books and periodicals, award distinction state prizes, spread cultural activities throughout the country by reinforcing the role of the directorates of culture in the governorates.

The government will work toward modernizing existing cultural legislation and carrying through the laws and regulations necessary for streamlining cultural activity. In this regard, the government has referred to your esteemed house a draft bill on copyright, and it has prepared a bill on the artists union.

National cultural development will remain a central plan of this the government considering that culture is a symbol of the strength of the Arab Islamic nation and a source of its material and moral strength, unity, and steadfastness.

Education:

Education in Jordan assumes a national priority in Jordan's development plans and in its future policies as well. The government will strive to lay the groundwork to make the nineties the decade of comprehensive educational reform that takes into account the quality of education and its development in a manner that is commensurate with the latest developments on the domestic and world scenes. The government will endorse a comprehensive 10-year educational development plan based on the firm principles and key foundations enshrined in the Constitution, the National Charter, the education law, the king's letter of designation, and the first conference for educational development.

Education is a multifaceted and wide-ranging process, the end result of which should be to see a whole people use their capabilities and resources to build a modern and cohesive society, the main pillar of which should be the enlightened citizen who translates education into practice and conduct. To achieve this objective, the

government will focus its attention and plans on building an integrated and balanced personality, emphasizing civic education, especially at the primary education stage—the stage during which the learner's attitudes and convictions are formed. To achieve this, the Ministry of Education will effect complete coordination with the concerned institutions.

As for educational material, the government will continue to implement its plans to develop and upgrade curricula and textbooks, emphasizing that the educational process is one aimed at enriching minds and unleashing man's creative capacities and his proper thinking, which should be based on an analytical methodology and rationalization rather than learning by rote or dictation. The ministry will give special attention to the gifted. It will do its best to secure educational technology and develop its usage through enhancing libraries, laboratories, and vocational workshops at schools; through developing the methods and means of science teaching; through developing educational television programs and school radio programs; through spreading computer education among all students; and also through upgrading the levels of teaching Arabic and other living languages.

If the student is the focus of the educational process, the teacher is its key mainstay. Therefore, the government will give special attention to teachers. Likewise, it will increase and upgrade the efficiency of the qualification training which they receive. Moreover, it will modernize teacher training programs at Jordanian universities and provide incentives for teachers through developing housing and social insurance services and building teachers' clubs. We hope that your esteemed house will pass the draft law on the teachers' association.

With regard to educational administration, the government will strive to develop administrative legislations, enhance decentralization in administrative work, modernize mechanisms for selecting educational leaders, expand educational and administrative qualification training to improve performance.

As for school buildings, the government will continue to implement its plans to build modern school buildings to cope with expansions in various areas in the kingdom, to dispense with rented buildings, to do away with the two-period school system, to develop low-cost models for school buildings, and to develop an integrated system for their maintenance. The government will also strive to effect stronger links between the output of secondary education on the one hand and the needs of the labor market, development plans, and the requirements of higher education on the other. Moreover, it will seek to achieve greater diversification and flexibility in secondary education programs and to expand in the kinds of vocational and applied education given to students. Likewise, the government will give special attention to upgrading education in the rural and desert areas by effecting a fair distribution of qualified cadres and educational aids among the various areas in the kingdom.

Higher education:

The government will work to reinforce the independence of higher education institutions, and will support and promote them to enable them to respond to the needs of economic, social, and political development. The government will take the appropriate measures to complete the establishment of Mu'tah University and to expedite the establishment of its permanent site. Measures will also be taken to provide the requirements for the establishment of al-Zarqa' University, which will be a new source of learning alongside other Jordanian universities.

The government will also work at achieving integration among the available resources and capabilities at universities, community colleges, research and development institutions, and national production and services establishments. The government will work to develop systems of incentives for academic staff so as to curb their flight from higher education institutions.

The government will support higher education and scientific research programs to meet the needs of the kingdom and fraternal countries for cadres with scientific and technical qualifications. The government will set academic and organizational regulations and standards for private universities and community colleges to guarantee their purposeful, scientific performance.

Given that the student is the main pillar of higher education, the government will work to develop his talents and capabilities and move him and the university climate away from fanaticism, puritanism, and narrow-mindedness. We will provide for the student a climate in which views and opinions interact and in which a spirit of dialogue, tolerance, and respect for the opposite opinion prevails. The government will also work to provide the appropriate framework for students to engage in extracurricular activities within their own organizations. The government will also work to establish clubs for intellectual dialogue at colleges. In such clubs, students would learn how to engage in calm debates and objective dialogue. To promote that, this government will work to establish university parliaments in which the academic staff and students would discuss public issues.

The media:

Stemming from the principles of the Constitution and the spirit of the National Charter, the mission of Jordanian media will be based on the principles of freedom, national responsibility, respect for the truth, and the values of the Arab Islamic nation. The government considers the freedom of thought, opinions, and expression to be the right of both citizens and the press and other means of media and national communication. The government will be eager to provide a free, democratic climate for the press.

The government will encourage information and communication means. It will support them to enable them to communicate Jordan's image to the world, to serve as a true reflection of the democratic changes in Jordan and of its enlightened openness, to convey new discoveries and scientific and cultural development to Jordan, and to serve as a media tribune with educational objectives through which the media would contribute to the creation of citizens who identify with their homeland and nation and who take pride in their Arab Islamic heritage.

The government will work to assert the role of the media in adopting the issues of the homeland and the citizen, defending Arab and Islamic causes, and supporting the steadfastness of our kinfolk in Palestine in the face of the Zionist invasion.

The government will work to modernize and promote media regulations and legislation, reorganize the administrative structures of the Information Ministry and its affiliated establishments, and attract distinctive national expertise.

Youth:

Appreciating the fact that the youth sector—a major sector of Jordanian society as it is—has failed to receive its due attention, the government will strive to frame methodical youth policies to accommodate their aspirations. It will work toward gearing and promoting their energies in the interest of the community. The government will open up to their intellectual and cultural concerns within the context of a democratic dialogue, exchange views with them on community affairs and national challenges and their role in fashioning the post-charter future.

The government will work to complete the building of sports complexes, al-Husayn youth camps, and the al-Hasan Youth City, and develop youth centers and clubs. It will pay sports activity the attention it merits, and develop sports regulations with a view to enhancing youth participation in national development, and the sports and voluntary movement.

Proceeding from our perception and appreciation of the multiple and enormous responsibilities and the obligations of the state treasury, and out of a belief in the importance of a grass roots participation in the overall development process, the government will move to start a national fund for the support of the sports and youth movement so as to create a permanent source of income to support youth activities and cover their expenditures.

Your Excellency the Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

The exceptional circumstances the country has experienced over the past decades have disturbed the demographics. This applies to forced population migrations as a result of the occupation of Palestine, migrations from the rural and desert areas to urban centers, and migrations from outlying areas to the center of the kingdom in quest of job opportunities. If we look at the kingdom's demographic map we will find it is incongruous with the resources map. The unforeseen circumstances that had precluded implementation of the economic and social development plans helped create this disturbance and led to a concentration of the population in a small area of the kingdom.

The government will study the situation and accordingly frame a plan to rectify the imbalance by discouraging migration from rural to urban centers, from outlying areas to the center of the country, and by redistributing the population so as to exploit the natural resources throughout the country. The government will work to make it more attractive for the population to gravitate to rural centers with a view to exploiting the largest possible area of untapped parts of the country.

Natural resources are found in wide areas of the kingdom and are concentrated in the southern regions where unemployment and pockets of poverty also concentrate. Therefore, the government will introduce development programs for the southern, eastern, and desert areas geared to unemployment and poverty. The economic agencies in these regions will take charge by creating job opportunities and generating worthwhile economic and social activity, including the establishment of training institutes, in a manner compatible with the development plan and the population distribution.

Mr. Speaker; esteemed Deputies:

The government is aware of the magnitude of the issues and problems we face and their various types, as well as its responsibilities to implement its internal and external policies. The country has gone through an acute economic crisis whose effects Jordan, thanks be to God for the wisdom of its leadership and the patience of its people, succeeded in containing. In addition, a destructive war raged through the region, as a result of the Gulf crisis, which shook the pillars of the Arab nation to the core. The region is still straining from the effects of this war. It left behind deep cuts in Arab links through which the nation's enemies penetrated to further deepen the cuts and break the links and ties. It is our duty to exert all possible efforts to stop this bleeding and deterioration, after which we can move to heal the wound, relying on the awareness of our brothers and realization that keeping the situation as it is and not healing the rift will only kill us. We are all the only sufferers and our enemies are the only beneficiaries. On the internal front, we do not promise you that we can work miracles. However, we promise you that we will work with loyalty, honesty, perseverance, and determination to set the basis for sound action and ethics, and safeguard and develop national gains for the better. We will not wane in protecting national and public interests and will guard public funds from any tampering or negligence. We will put an end to corruption wherever it appears. The government will cooperate with your esteemed council

on the subject of financial investigations, which you have at your disposal.

While the government affirms its concern over cooperating with your esteemed council to entrench the principles of democratic action and constant discussion between the legislative and executive authorities, to protect the interests of this homeland and people, and to shoulder its responsibilities, it presents this policy statement to you asking for your vote of confidence on its basis.

We ask God to help us all to serve our dear Jordan so that it can always be a free and cherished homeland, and to preserve its leader His Majesty King Husayn.

And say: Work (righteousness): Soon will God observe your work, And His Apostle, and the Believers. [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Karami Believes Hostage Issue 'Resolved Soon'

NC1107163391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said today that the government is not only focusing on Jazzin but is concerned about all the occupied areas and is seeking to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425. Karami added that violence is a thing of the past and that security within the country will be maintained. He also reassured the foreigners by saying that he believes the hostage issue will be resolved soon.

In an interview with Lebanese Television which will be aired at 2100 today during the Thursday "Salon" program, Karami called for assistance in rebuilding the country's infrastructure. He stressed the need to improve governmental services and said that the cabinet will review the issue.

Hizballah To Answer Questions

NC1107170291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] It has been learned that Hizballah leaders are about to answer specific questions on the hostage release now that diplomatic contacts between Iran and Washington have covered much ground toward solving this issue. A number of Hizballah leaders, especially 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, were recently in Iran where the hostage issue was an important topic of discussion.

State 'Only Morally Responsible'

NC1207071691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib has stated that the hostage issue is the concern of people outside Lebanon. He said: We are only morally responsible for this issue because the hostages were kidnapped on our soil when we were in a weak position that prevented us from protecting them. He asserted, however, that the government is helping to resolve the hostage issue because the resolution of this issue serves Lebanon and its salvation process. In a statement to AL-BAYRAQ, the minister said that the new identity cards will become effective after all the birth registrations have been reviewed and authorized.

Karami Pledges Efforts To Implement Resolution 425

NC1107125091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has said that the government is holding diplomatic consultations with the United States and other countries. Karami talked to reporters following a parliamentary session:

[Begin recording] We discussed the ongoing consultations with the cabinet. The government's position is unchanged. Our main concern is implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. We will exert every possible diplomatic effort, through all possible channels, particularly at the United Nations, to ensure the implementation of that resolution. We will continue our efforts with the United States, at the United Nations, and in every world capital. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Position Cited

NC1207102591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has emphasized that what has been applied to the Lebanon regarding disarmament also will be applied to the non-Lebanese. Regarding the U.S. stand implying that implementing Resolution 425 is linked with solving the region's crisis, Karami said in an interview with AL-BAYRAQ today: We felt the U.S. envoy's visit was moral support for the Lebanese authority's steps to implement the al-Ta'if agreement. Since the establishment of the present government, the Americans' discussions with us have focused on establishing a strong central authority and a strong army that imposes its authority on the ground. When this is achieved, the United States would be able to help implement Resolution 425. He indicated that the government is implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, which has Arab and international support.

Al-Hirawi: 'No Cause' for Palestinian Dialogue

NC1207095491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has expressed satisfaction with the Army deployment in the south and the Palestinian leader's responsiveness, despite what happened in Sidon at the start of the deployment. AL-NAHAR cites President al-Hirawi as having said that the state will not retreat from the progress it has achieved on the ground and will persevere and seek to achieve more until the state's authority is extended over all Lebanese territory, no weapons other than those in the hands of the legitimate forces exist, and there are no military operations in the south or elsewhere.

Regarding dialogue with the Palestinians, President al-Hirawi, according to AL-NAHAR, said: I see no cause for such a dialogue, whether before or after the Army deployment. He asked: What would the dialogue deal with and with what rights? Al-Hirawi added that there is a directorate in Lebanon that is taking care of Palestinian affairs and that this directorate is responsible for examining any complaints, iniquities, or demands. He said this department regulates the Palestinians' employment in Lebanon within the required conditions and provides humanitarian and social care to Palestinians registered in its official records, a number not exceeding 300,000 and many of whom could have immigrated during the last 16 years.

PLO Denies Army Claim of More Weapons in Tyre

NC1107130591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The PLO has said that it has turned over all its heavy- and medium-caliber weapons from seven camps

in the Tyre area. The Lebanese Army, however, claims some weapons remain in the camps. AFP has reported that the Army has requested that these weapons be handed over. Our security correspondent said that 1,000 PLO fighters remain in the al-Rashidiyah, al-Burj al-Shamali, and al-Buss camps and that they have not given up their light-caliber weapons.

London Paper Says 'Awn Departure 'Very Imminent'

PM1207084491 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Randah Taqiy-al-Din report: "Pisani Negotiated and Lebanon Responded: 'Awn Issue To Be Resolved Soon"]

[Excerpt] Paris—AL-HAYAH has learned from diplomatic sources in Paris that the release of General Michel 'Awn, who has been taking refuge at the French Embassy in Lebanon since last October, is now very imminent. It has also learned that the French official negotiating with the Lebanese authorities in this regard is Edgar Pisani—president of the Arab World Institute and an adviser to President Francois Mitterrand—who is described in French political circles as the "secret and difficult missions man."

The sources pointed out that before his departure, the former French ambassador in Beirut, Rene Ala, almost managed to secure an agreement between the two sides on $32 million. General 'Awn refused to sign, however, demanding that the sum be reduced to $18 million, so the agreement was postponed.

The sources emphasized that the Syrian authorities expressed their willingness to agree to resolve this problem when the new French ambassador, Daniel Husson, arrives in Beirut. [passage omitted]

'Awn's Case 'Resolved'

NC1207102991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Excerpt] AL-DIYAR reports today that the issue of former Army Commander Michel 'Awn has been resolved, and he will leave the French Embassy in al-Hazimiyah for Paris in a few days. [passage omitted]

Resistance Claims Attack on Israeli-SLA Patrol

NC1107125491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Islamic resistance sources in the south said that today resistance fighters attacked a joint Israeli-South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol as it was heading toward the al-Dabshah position in al-Nabatiyah area this morning. During the attack, in which rockets and machine guns were used, a Merkava tank was destroyed and two others were put out of commission. The resistance sources added that the Israeli forces shelled the scene of operation and fired a number of shells at al-Nabatiyah area.

Palestinian Committee To Discuss Civil Rights

NC1207064091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The political leadership of the PLO's groups held a meeting in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp last night, during which it discussed the latest developments concerning the Lebanese Army's deployment in the areas of Sidon and Tyre. As a result of the meeting, a four-member committee was formed to continue contacts with the Ministerial Liaison Committee, comprised of Ministers 'Abdallah al-Amin and Shawqi Fakhuri, to prepare a formula for the Palestinians' social and civic rights.

The Palestinian committee members are: Abu-Fadi Raji of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Salih Zaydan of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Jamal Khalil of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and Muhammad Yasin of the Palestine Liberation Front. The committee will cooperate with a team of legal experts to form a general concept about the Palestinian social rights that will be discussed with Ministers al-Amin and Fakhuri.

Sidon Ulema Delegation Returns From Damascus

NC1107131591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] A delegation from Sidon Ulema returned to Sidon from Damascus at midday. The delegation, comprised of Shaykh Ahmad al- Zayn, Shaykh Mahir Hammud, Shaykh Muharram al-'Arifi, Shaykh Ghazi Hunayn, and Dr. 'Ali 'Ammar, met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam in Damascus. The delegation issued a statement that the talks with Khaddam focused on the Army deployment in Sidon and neighboring areas. During the talks, the delegation emphasized the need to preserve and escalate the resistance until the entire area is liberated from the Israeli-occupied areas.

The delegation said that Khaddam voiced his commitment to the resistance and his belief in its role. Khaddam said that Syria supports the Army deployment plan and is eager to preserve the civic and social rights of the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Correction to Army Officer on Deployment Plan

NC1107125991

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Army Officer on Deployment Plan" published in the 11 July 1991 Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT on page 16:

page 16, column two, last paragraph, sentence two make read: ...60-sq km area comprising Tyre and neighboring villages...(changing "Sidon" to "Tyre")

Al-Asad Meets U.S. Congressman, Talks on Peace

JN0807182191 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] At noon today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Wayne Owens, member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Edward Djerejian. Discussions dealt with the U.S. trend for launching a peace process in the region and with the negative Israeli stand on peace efforts in view of what has been published about an Israeli response to U.S. President George Bush's letter in this regard.

The president stressed Syria's eagerness about a just, comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions on peace in the Middle East. He also stressed Syria's support for efforts to reach this end. The president referred to the obstacles placed in front of the peace process by Israeli officials. He said Syria has never been and will never be an obstacle to international efforts to establish a just peace.

Al-Shar' Receives Declaration From EC Envoys

JN0907205291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the EC ambassadors accredited to Damascus, headed by the Netherlands ambassador, whose country is the current EC chairman. Al-Shar' received from the Netherlands ambassador the declaration issued by the EC on 29 June 1991 on the Middle East peace process. The declaration underlines the European call for a speedy launching of a process that leads to a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and for the convening of the peace conference. It expresses Europe's readiness to contribute fully to the success of the conference.

The statement stresses the need to settle the Palestinian question through the attainment of Palestinian people's right to self-determination. It also expresses the EC belief that the establishment of settlements in the occupied Arab territories is illegal and runs contrary to the peace process.

For his part, Mr. al-Shar' reviewed with the EC ambassadors the situation in the region and the international efforts aimed at finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the UN resolutions. He explained the procedural and substantial obstacles Israel is placing in the way of the peace conference. The two sides had identical views on the need to convene the peace conference as soon as possible on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. In this respect, the Netherlands ambassador stressed Syria's positive role and the identical Syrian and European positions toward the peace process.

U.S. Must Prove 'Credibility' in Middle East

JN1207064691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, President George Bush has declared that the United States will not give up efforts to reach a settlement in the Middle East, and that it would like to benefit from the credibility it gained during the Gulf war to play a constructive role in the achievement of peace. He said: We are facing obstacles, but we will not give up, and will pursue efforts. In fact, the Arab states too, especially those that played a positive role in the Gulf crisis, stood alongside truth and justice, and condemned the Iraqi aggression. In view of the United States' influence and major weight in the international community, they are anxiously looking forward to an effective U.S. contribution to the achievement of a just, comprehensive peace. This is also in view of the fact that the U.S. Administration, through President Bush, has officially pledged to enforce UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for Israel's withdrawal and the exchange of land for peace.

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Administration has tried to activate the peace process in the region. Secretary James Baker toured Middle East countries three times, held lengthy talks, and proposed ideas and listened to ideas. However, these efforts, as Baker himself admitted, collided with Israeli intransigence and with the Shamir government's determination to build settlements in the occupied territories instead of withdrawing from them. Baker indicated that the Shamir government preceded each of his visits with a declaration that a number of settlements had been established in the occupied territories, as if telling him: Go home. President Bush has frequently denounced the settlement policy. Only a few days ago, he declared that it contradicts American policy and constitutes a stumbling block to peace. He went as far as to warn Israel that he would acquaint the American people with the truth of the intransigent Israeli antipeace policy, especially since Israel receives annual aid amounting to billions of dollars. Yesterday, Bush declared: I would like to see a halt to settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories.

In fact, President Bush touched the core of the issue; settlement activities and directing Jewish immigrants to the occupied Arab territories raise unsurmountable barriers to peace and reinforce the climate of tension and mistrust. The peace conference that the United States plans to hold depends on Israel's decision to abandon the policy of settlement and to pledge to withdraw from the occupied territories in return for peace. For their part, the Arabs have shown actual and earnest readiness to respond to international efforts. Through President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has frequently declared that it welcomes every international effort to achieve a just, comprehensive settlement restoring the Palestinian people's rights and the Arabs' occupied territories. Had

Israel shown a sincere desire to withdraw, the peace conference would have now been a bright fact and would have been tackling all aspects of the Arab- Zionist dispute. However, Israel's insistence on seizing and Judaizing the occupied Arab territories, planting them throughout with settlements and changing their features, explains why it keeps saying "No," and setting impossible terms, such as excluding the United Nations, Europe, the Security Council member states, and the international community from a peace conference, and diverting negotiations from finding a comprehensive settlement of the dispute toward partial, separate deals that further exacerbate and complicate the situation.

The United States is definitely required to prove its credibility. In fact, President Bush is required to honor his pledge that there will be no double standards in dealing with the UN resolutions. The Palestinian people have been awaiting for the implementation of these resolutions for over 40 years. The occupied territories have been under the yoke of Zionist repression and settlement since 1967. Consequently, the United States has no choice but to confront the Israeli Government with facts and to use the appropriate language to end Israel's disobedience and rebellion against international legitimacy. How can the American people accept to deprive their children of billions of dollars every year for the benefit of Israel, at a time when the Israeli Government is using this huge aid in aggressive settlement projects that pose a threat to international peace and security and gravely harm the reputation and interests of the United States in the region and the world?

PRC's Li Peng, Wife Arrive on Official Visit

JN1107212491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] At 1930 today, PRC State Council Premier Li Peng and his wife arrived in Damascus on an official and friendly visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Heading those receiving them at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his wife. Also meeting him at the bottom of the stairs from the plane were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Syrian Ambassador in China Lutfallah Haydar, PRC Ambassador in Damascus Zhang Zhen, and their wives. [passage omitted]

At the honor lounge, Li Peng made a statement to a SANA correspondent saying: It is my great pleasure to visit your country in response to a noble invitation I received from the Syrian Government. On this occasion, I would like to relay, on behalf of the PRC Government and people, our warm greetings and best wishes to the Syrian Government and people. The Chinese and Syrian peoples are bound together by an age-old traditional friendship. The famous silk road became a symbol of the strong trade ties which existed between the two peoples and their friendly contacts more than 2,000 years ago.

As for the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, they witnessed a successful enhancement in all spheres after diplomatic ties were established between them in 1956. Recently, visits by officials of each country to the other have increased. Likewise, there has been a steady and increased understanding between them. Moreover, the areas of cooperation have continued to be expanded between the two countries. Hence, we would like to express our deep satisfaction. Syria is an age-old civilized country situated in western Asia on the Mediterranean. I am greatly honored to have had this opportunity to look with pleasure at the bright sights in your country and to see for myself the great accomplishments your country has made in its noble construction endeavor. Moreover, I look forward to cordial meetings and talks with His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and other Syrian leaders to exchange views on bilateral ties and important international and regional issues.

In view of all this, I hope that this visit will contribute to further enhancing the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the PRC and Syria.

Afterward, al-Zu'bi and Li Peng headed off in an official motorcade to the Tishrin Palace, the guest residence for the State Council premier. Li Peng is accompanied by an official delegation made up of Qian Qichen, state councillor and foreign affairs minister, and his wife; Li Lanqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade; and a number of other Chinese officials.

Commentary on 'Day of Reckoning' for Iraqi Regime

JN1107110191 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Damascus, 11 Jul (SANA)—Under the headline "The Judgment of History," AL-THAWRAH says in one of its commentaries today that the Iraqi regime could have withdrawn and spared the Iraqi people and Army the disaster of a war to which it stubbornly and suspiciously clung.

The paper asks: Can a regime that did all of this to the Iraqi people, Army, and potential go on this way without being judged by people and history? Can such a nightmare oppressing Iraq, denying it fresh air, and preventing it from choosing a way out of the debris of the disaster and salvaging what it can, go on in a country that has become prey to tragedy, setbacks, and disasters as the price for the regime's remaining in power? The paper notes that the people are being killed and displaced, and that they are fleeing the country, while wounded Iraq is agonizing under the pressure of severe suffering. Will the Iraqi people remain silent about the bitter price for keeping Saddam in power?

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Anyone depending on the force of suppression and genocide to bring people to their knees refuses to recognize that surviving amid pools of blood cannot continue for long; that the judgment of the nation and history will be harsh, strict, and decisive; and that the day of reckoning when the people will have the final say is not far off.

Salman on 'Blackmailing' Role of 'Zionist Lobby'

JN1107075991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman last night received a delegation of the national council for Arab-American relations made up of a group of academicians and researchers specialized in the region's political and historical issues at U.S. universities. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammd 'Ali Huriyah, president of Aleppo University.

The minister discussed the important role of mediamen and researchers in orienting world public opinion toward justice and peace. He also spoke about the U.S. Zionist lobby's role in misleading U.S. public opinion about the truth of Israel's anti-peace policy and hindrance of all peace efforts made by some U.S. leaders. The minister said that the Zionist lobby is now seeking to foil peace efforts undertaken by the world community, especially the United States. He said the Zionist lobby's control over certain Western media allows it to promote the lies of Israel's leaders and to keep U.S. public opinion in the dark about Arab positions and views.

The information minister warned the U.S. people that Israel's rulers and the Zionist lobby in the United States are blackmailing them and using their resources in the interest of Israel and its agressive designs.

Press on Need To Spread Sovereignty in Lebanon

JN1007074691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 10 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Spreading State Sovereignty in Southern Lebanon Is An Urgent Issue," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that Lebanon is determined to spread state sovereignty over all of Lebanon, that it rejects the existence of a statelet within the Lebanese state, and that it does not accept the existence of an armed group along with the legitimate Lebanese Army. The Lebanese president also stressed the need to implement Resolution 425 on the Israeli occupiers' withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH asserts that President Ilyas al-Hirawi's statements are very clear. Now that the situation in Lebanon has begun to settle down and the legitimacy began to impose its control over most of the Lebanese territories, it has become urgent to complete the remaining steps aimed at spreading state sovereignty over all Lebanese territories. This, of course, will not be accomplished if the Israeli occupiers stay in southern Lebanon.

The paper adds: The Lebanese president has decided to visit the United Nations headquarters in the near future to ask the United Nations to take the necessary measures to implement its Resolution 425, calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. This is very natural, and in fact, a legitimate Lebanese right, especially since Lebanon had obtained full support to implement the al-Ta'if agreement.

The paper says: It is no longer acceptable that the United Nations use double standards in dealing with the regional or international issues. The United Nations, out of concern for its effectiveness and credibility, is required to act seriously and effectively to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

Concluding, the paper says: To entrench the pillars of peace in a new world free of all forms of aggression and fascism, we believe that the United Nations, supported by the world's big powers, should do what it has to do to evacuate the Zionist occupiers from southern Lebanon.

On the same subject, in its "Behind the News" column, AL-THAWRAH says: Stability in Lebanon, the restoration of prestige to the state and its institutions, and the success of legitimacy in passing all tests, will undoubtedly enable it to liberate southern Lebanon from the Israeli occupation. Just as it found Syria the best supporter in all the phases of the solution to the crisis, it will also find that Syria can play a decisive and constructive role in extending every support and aid to liberate the south and to spread state sovereignty over all Lebanese territories.

Afghanistan

Babrak Karmal's Return Sows 'Suspicion' in Kabul

BK1007082491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0758 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Report by Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Kabul, 10 July (AFP)—The return of former Afghan President Babrak Karmal after five years' exile in the Soviet Union has sown suspicion here, as three weeks have passed without comment on the homecoming by his successor Najibollah.

The unpublicised June 20 arrival of the pro-Moscow Afghan leader has also injected an element of intrigue into President Najibollah's faction-ridden ruling Watan Party which could spread to the Army, party members said here.

They said the Army was disconcerted by the studied official silence on Mr. Karmal's unobtrusive presence.

A stream of followers visit Mr. Karmal daily in his two-room apartment, angering powerful lobbies in the Watan (Homeland) Party, where rival coteries relish the government's discomfort over Mr. Karmal's return, they said.

"His sudden return has drawn dormant hostilities out into the open in our party, where so many factions and sub-factions either support or oppose Mr. Karmal's presence," a Watan Central Committee member said.

He said other lobbies were not relishing the "delight" shared by Karmal backers, or Karmalites, in the Watan Party, previously called the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan but now trying to shed its left-wing, communist image.

"We had to ignore Mr. Karmal's return because at this moment his presence here could mean nothing but trouble for us," the Watan member said.

He was referring to Kabul's desperate attempts at national reconciliation to draw back the hundreds of thousands of people who fled the country after the Soviet Union sent 100,000 troops here 12 years ago.

The committee member said a main cause of the division within the party was that its chief, Mr. Najibollah, had so far given "no satisfactory" explanation for the return of Mr. Karmal, who was Afghan president from 1979-86.

Mr. Najibollah has said only that the hardline leader came back to Afghanistan as a "private citizen" from the Soviet Union where he had been living since 1986, the year Mr. Najibollah took over.

Mr. Karmal has been seen as the champion of the communist cause and is accused of legitimising the 1979 Soviet military intervention.

The ageing Afghan figure has been permitted to retain his post in the party's central executive although Mr. Najibollah sacked his brother, Mahmoud Baryalai, as his first deputy prime minister hours after Mr. Karmal touched down at Kabul airport, where he was greeted by a porter and two Watan functionaries.

"The government banned planned welcome arches and reception parties and ordered several hundred followers not to stir out of their homes," said a friend of Mr. Karmal and his brother, adding that she too was unable to see him on arrival.

"His return does not help the unity of the party, this is our view," said Professor Mohammad Asghar, president of the National Salvation Society, a forum of royalists and followers of ex-King Zaher Shah, self-exiled in Rome.

Prof. Asghar, a prominent Afghan intellectual, believes that even Mr. Karmal does not know why he was "ordered" back to Kabul at such a critical juncture.

The Soviet-backed government is backing a United Nations peace plan which calls for a cessation of fighting and elections to end the 12 year war.

"Karmal is a mere pawn, he had to follow instructions," the professor said, adding that he interpreted Mr. Najibollah's sacking of Mr. Baryalai as a signal to fractious Watan members that he had no hand in Mr. Karmal's recall.

"But the party is divided into so many factions that it is well nigh impossible for any single faction to gain supremacy over the other," Mr. Asghar said.

The Watan Party is clearly divided into Mr. Najibollah's group, called Parcham (Flag), and the military-based Khalq faction.

But the Parcham faction, in turn, is broadly subdivided into followers of Mr. Najibollah, Mr. Karmal and tribals rallying behind a former prime minister, Sultan Ali Keshtmand, who is believed to be in Moscow.

"The Khalqis are displeased," said retired General Abdul Hakim Katawazi, referring to Mr. Karmal's reported opposition to Khalq dominence of the Afghan Army.

The retired general warned that the army, 60 percent of whom are reckoned to be Khalqis, were "spoiling for trouble" because of the absence of a credible explanation for the return of a man "despised because he was associated with the Soviet invasion."

Some 1.2 million people have died, another million have been wounded and five million have been forced into neighbouring countries since Moscow decided to send its troops here to prop up the Communist regime in Kabul.

"Every stone and tree hates him," the former general said.

President Najibollah Meets With Uzbek Delegation

LD0807225991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Text] The Presidential Press Office has told BIA that esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, received a delegation from Surkhandarya Province, in the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR], at the presidential offices this afternoon. The delegation, led by B.H. Eshanevich, first deputy chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Representatives.

At the beginning of the meeting, esteemed Najibollah spoke in connection with developments in the country's situation. He said that the people of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan enjoy traditional cultural ties. They have benefited mutually from these ties in the past. We are in favor of the continuation and acceleration of joint efforts with Uzbekistan in most areas, he said. Najibollah added that the Republic of Afghanistan has resources that favor the expansion of ties with the Uzbek Republic. These ties can be expanded both in the form of direction cooperation and as cooperation in other spheres. Factories and various agricultural projects, jointly undertaken by Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, can contribute to serving the interest of our people, he stated.

For his part, Mr. Eshanevich praised the efforts made by the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure peace. He described progress in the realization of the national reconciliation policy as being in the interest of peace in Afghanistan and the region. He stressed the importance of the expansion of economic, financial, technical, and cultural cooperation between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan, and said that the Republic of Uzbekistan is ready for the expansion of mutually beneficial cooperation. At the end of the meeting, esteemed Najibollah awarded the state medal of the Republic of Afghanistan to Mr. Eshanevich, who was honored to receive the medal. During this meeting, presidential adviser Mohammed Eshaq Tokhi and Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in Kabul, were also present.

Islamic Unity Party Vows To Continue Struggle

LD1007100591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The Muslim mojahedin of Afghanistan are demanding an Islamic government in that country. The group is also demanding the overthrow of the current regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi, spokesman for the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, raised this point in an interview with reporters today in Tehran, and explained the results of his visit to Pakistan.

Referring to his meetings with Pakistan's president and other political officials, he said that the views of the Islamic Unity Party were explained during the meetings. He also said that one of the results of his meetings, with Peshawar-based leaders of the Afghan mojahedin, was an exploration of ways and means of cooperation between the various Afghan mojahed groups.

The spokesman for the Islamic Unity Party stressed that the operations of the Muslim revolutionaries must continue until the Kabul regime is overthrown. He added that the Islamic Unity Party's forces are already engaged in operations in Maydan and Herat provinces against the Marxist regime in Kabul. He said these operations will continue until the rightful demands of the mojahedin are met.

Military Operations in Nimroz, Jawzjan Noted

LD1007085691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The Armed Forces based in Nimroz Province recently mounted cleanup operations in Kang district of that province. According to a BAKHTAR report, a number of extremists were crushed as a result of the operation and six boxes of DShK [antiaircraft machine gun] ammunition, 35 shells for heavy weapons, and thousands of rounds of light ammunition were captured. One arms and ammunition depot was destroyed.

According to another report, a number of extremists, including a ringleader by the name of Khairoddin, were killed when centers and positions of the warmongering extremists were subjected to strikes by the Armed Forces in Jawzjan Province. A number of their weapons and positions were also destroyed.

Golboddin Munitions Dump Explodes in Laghman

LD1007170891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] An ammunition depot of the Golboddin group in the Rahim Qala area of Laghman Province caught fire yesterday. According to a report from the BIA military section, explosions could be heard from a long distance for more than 24 hours. Thousands of SAKAR, cluster, and missile-type rockets, and hundreds of heavy and light weapons burned. Rockets landed in residential areas around the depot causing enormous loss of human life and damage.

The day before yesterday, an arms and ammunition convoy of the Golboddin extremist group was subjected to crushing blows by the Armed Forces in the Ghingal area of Laghman Province. The BIA military section reports: As a result of the blows, eight vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition have been destroyed and a number of their guards were killed.

A Golboddin group's tractor, carrying arms and ammunition, was blown up in the Zarmal district of Paktia Province by a mine planted by the extremist group of Klales. The BIA military section reports: As a result, the tractor and its consignment were exterminated and its two guards were killed.

Bangladesh

Rahman-Bessmertnykh Meeting, Pact Signing Noted

BK1107133391 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Bangladesh and the Soviet Union have signed a consular convention to further develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. The signing of the convention follows official talks between Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman and his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh in Moscow Wednesday [10 July]. The convention governing the treatment and other related matters of diplomats and civilians of the two countries is seen as a breakthrough since its signing was (?belated) for many years. During their talks, the two foreign ministers discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations to further expand the areas of cooperation. Before the official talks, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman and Mr. Bessmertnykh had [word indistinct] meeting for some time.

Visiting Indian Army Chief Meets With Ahmed

BK1007163891 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Visiting Indian chief of army staff, General Sunith Francis Rodrigues, called on acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed in Dhaka today. The acting president said the exchange of visits at the highest military level would promote goodwill and friendly relations between the two countries. The chief of Army staff, Lieutenant General Mohammad Nuruddin Khan, was present on the occasion. Gen. Rodrigues also called on Defense Secretary Anisur Rahman. The Indian chief of army staff visited the Defense Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur. He was given a reception at the Sena Kunja [army house] at Dhaka cantonment in the afternoon. Gen. Rodrigues handed over some souvenirs of the war of liberation to Gen. Nuruddin Khan for the Bangladesh Military Museum.

Urges Closer Ties

BK1107161991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The chief of the Army Staff, General Rodrigues, has said relations between India and Bangladesh should be developed to act as a model for other countries in the region. Talking to newsmen in Dhaka today, at the end of his six-day visit to Bangladesh, the general said a delegation from Bangladesh will visit India soon to identify areas where New Delhi can help in modernizing Bangladesh's defense forces.

Islamic Development Bank Grants $19 Million Loan

BK1107141691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The Islamic Development Bank is to extend interest-free loans totaling $173 million to several Muslim countries, including Bangladesh, to cover their imports. This was announced by the bank in Jeddah, Wednesday 10 July. The bank sources say Bangladesh will get $19 million to import oil from Saudi Arabia or the United Arab Emirates, and cotton either from Sudan or Pakistan. The other countries getting the loan are Iran, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, and Chad. The Jeddah-based bank is an affiliate of the 45-member Islamic Conference Organization.

India

Minister Wants Return of Soviet Engineer's Body

BK1107130191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikya, today renewed his appeal to the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists to hand over the body of the slain Russian mining engineer, Mr. Greshchenko, and release 12 other hostages. Talking to newsmen in Guwahati, Mr. Saikya said there were frantic enquiries from the Soviet consulate and the next of kin of Mr. Greshchenko about the body for the performance of last rites.

Oil Executive Abductors Want Freedom for Militants

BK1107162191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the authorities today established another telephonic contact with the kidnappers of the IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] official, Mr. Duraiswamy.

An official spokesman said in Jammu this evening, the government's offer to resolve the issue according to the tentative understanding arrived at during the contact established the previous evening and the steps taken to implement the government's part of the understanding were discussed. The spokesman expressed surprise and disappointment that instead of coming back to the authorties they issued a statement giving a factually incorrect picture of government's efforts in this regard. The spokesman said the government stands committed to the offer already made and is keeping the door of negotiations open to resolve the matter satisfactorily. The kidnappers today issued a statement asking for the release of all arrested militants by Saturday [13 July].

Rao on Oil Executive, Murder of Soviet Engineer

BK1207092891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister assured the Lok Sabha today that the government is vigorously pursuing all possible steps to secure the release of the IOC [Indian Oil Corporation] official, Mr. Doraiswamy, who has been kidnapped by militants in Kashmir. Responding to points made by several opposition members during the zero hour, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao said the entire

nation is justifiably worried over the incidents of kidnapping in Kashmir and Assam. He said the center is in constant touch with the Jammu and Kashmir authorities and is monitoring the situation very closely. He expressed the hope that the kidnapped official will be released soon.

About the incidents in Assam, the prime minister said the killing of the Soviet engineer by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] militants was in violation of the time allowed for negotiations. He said the government is looking into the matter and will take the house into confidence.

CPI-M Assails U.S. for Lifting RSA Sanctions

BK1107162691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has criticized the United States for the unilateral withdrawal of sanctions against South Africa. In a statement in New Delhi, the party politburo said the American decision comes at a time when the people of South Africa are struggling for dismantling the system of apartheid.

New Government Seeks Vote of Confidence 12 Jul

BK1207031891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The Narasimha Rao government is to seek the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha today. The Congress-I expressed the hope that the Lok Sabha will unanimously adopt the motion of confidence. The party spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said that his optimism is based on the way the speaker was elected unopposed.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has decided to vote against the motion of confidence and issued a whip to that effect. The three-line whip makes it mandatory for all the 117 Lok Sabha members of the party to be present and vote against the motion.

The National Front-Left combine is yet to take a decision on its strategy on the vote of confidence. The National Front parliamentary party at its meeting last evening has authorized Mr. V.P. Singh to decide on its approach in consultation with the Left parties. The front spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said that opinions on the issue at yesterday's meeting with some members saying that anything which may lead to elections should be avoided.

BJP To Oppose Confidence Vote

BK1107162591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has issued a whip to its members in the Lok Sabha to vote against the motion of confidence in the government slated for tomorrow. The three-line whip calls on the 117 members of the party to be present in the house to vote as per instructions of the whip. The National Front Left Combine, meanwhile, is yet to decide on its strategy on the vote of confidence.

Further on Vote of Confidence

BK1207075791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha has taken up the government's motion seeking the vote of confidence. The one-line motion was moved by the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and it reads that this house expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers. Though the motion was moved immediately after the question hour, the discussion was taken up only after the zero hour lasting over 35 minutes.

Initiating the discussion, the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, said his party opposses the confidence motion. The discussion is now in progress. It is expected to continue till Monday [15 July] when the vote will be taken up.

Lok Sabha Session Begins; Members Take Oath

BK0907094491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] The newly elected members of the 10th Lok Sabha are now taking oath with the pro tem speaker, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, in the chair. The leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, was the first to take the oath, followed by the leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani. They were followed by the ministers and a panel of chairmen—Mr. Buta Singh, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr. Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait, and Mr. P.M. Sayeed. Other members are taking the oath of affirmation in the order of the names of the states and union territories. While most members are taking the oath in Hindi or English, several others are preferring to take the oath in their mother tongue. Some members are also opting for Sanskrit.

As the proceedings began at the stroke of 1100 this morning, the near full house greeted the pro tem speaker, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, with thumping of desks as he took to the podium. A veteran parliamentarian and CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Gupta, welcomed the members and reminded them of their heavy responsibility for the welfare of the people of the country. He also exhorted them to extend their cooperation to the chair in strengthening the roots of Parliamentary democracy in the country. Members stood in silence for a while as is customary on such occasions before the proceedings of the house began.

Our parliamentary correspondent says a changed complexion marked the 10th Lok Sabha. The Congress-I has returned to the treasury benches after a lapse of one and a half years. Mr. L.K. Advani, who was the leader of the opposition in the previous house immediately before it was dissolved, occupied the same position. Two former prime ministers—Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Chandra

Shekhar—were sitting side by side in the second row on the opposition benches. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, entered the house shortly before it assembled for the day and exchanged greetings with other leaders and members. Our correspondent says that the otherwise solem mood of the house witnessed attempts by two opposition members to raise points of order which were overruled by the chair saying that it was not the proper occasion for any such thing.

The newly elected members of the Telugu Desam, CPI, and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] from Andhra Pradesh submitted to the chair in writing their decision to abstain from the oath taking today. They said it is in protest against violence in the state after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. The speaker has accepted the resignation from Mr. L.K. Advani from New Delhi and Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee from Vidisha parliamentary constituencies.

All the three major political parties have nominated their candidates for the post of speaker of the Lok Sabha. Mr. Shivraj Patil has filed his nomination as Congress-I candidate, while Mr. Rabi Ray is a candidate of the National Front-Left combine. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has named Mr. Jaswant Singh for this post. The election for speaker is scheduled for tomorrow with both the Congress-I and the BJP still expressing their hopes for a consensus on the choice of a speaker.

BJP To Support Congress Candidate for Speaker

BK0907105291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1030 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Text] According to news just received, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has decided to support the Congress-I candidate, Shivraj Patil, for the Lok Sabha speaker. Announcing this in a press conference in New Delhi today, the BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said this follows an agreement reached between his party and the Congress-I. Mr. Advani said the Congress-I has in turn agreed to support the BJP candidate for the deputy speakership.

Assam Militants Demand Release of More Detainees

BK1107144491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] According to an agency report, the ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] has issued a second list of 24 militants to be released by the government in exchange of four more hostages held by it. In a press release issued in Guwahati today, the ULFA said the deadline for the release of these militants is fixed at 1800 [1230 GMT] hours on Sunday [14 July]. It said four hostages will be released 24 hours after the freed militants reach their respective places of work safely.

Radio Reports Further on President's Address

BK1107092091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The president has called upon the people to be ready for any sacrifice to safeguard the country's economic independence. Addressing a joint session of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha today, Mr. Venkataraman said hard and unpleasant decisions need to be taken to overcome the economic crisis which is of unprecedented magnitude. [passage omitted]

Dealing with the economic matters at length, the president said the government attaches the highest priority to reducing inflation and will take necessary measures in this respect. He said the interest of weaker sections will be kept uppermost in the mind while framing strategies to bring down the prices.

Mr. Venkataraman said the public sector will be given greater autonomy without diluting accountability. He said a policy is being worked out for disinvestment, including workers participation in equity and leaving the areas of activity where public sector involvement is not essential to the private and joint sectors which have developed capabilities.

Mr. Venkataraman said the government is committed to the socioeconomic and educational development of the scheduled castes and tribes. He said it would also ensure that the benefits of reservation are provided to other economically backward sections which are not covered by the existing scheme. He said a backward development corporation will be set up for the purpose.

He said to protect the rights of minorities, the Minorities Commission will be accorded statutory status.

Turning to international relations, the president said the changes that are taking place in the world will be taken into account while firmly adhering to the principles of nonalignment.

He said Pakistan's support to terrorism in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of serious concern and stands in the way of a genuine and sustained improvement in our relations with that country. He said India believes that all differences with Islamabad should be resolved bilaterally and peacefully on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

With China, the president said the outstanding question of the boundary should be settled in a fair and reasonable manner.

While expressing that India looks forward to further development of its relations with America, the president said ties with the Soviet Union will continue to develop in an atmosphere of traditional warmth and understanding.

He also referred to India's growing relations with Japan and countries of Southeast Asia region.

Some members from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha tried to repeatedly raise certain points and some other opposition members also continued to disrupt the president during his address. Some of them complained that the president was not audible because of insufficient facilities. The lone Lok Dal member in the Rajya Sabha walked out during the latter part of the address.

At the outset, the president referred to the heinous assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and described it as an inhumane act of the worst kind. He said government is of the view that the terms of reference of the Verma commission of inquiry into the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi should be enlarged and made comprehensive.

Incidents in Punjab, Amritsar Leave 10 Dead

BK1207053691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] In Punjab, five militants are among the 10 persons killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, four militants were killed in separate encounters in Amritsar District. Three policemen, including a DSP [deputy superintendent of police] and an inspector, were injured in an encounter in Amritsar city. In Patiala District, some militants ambushed a police party, escorting an arrested militant, killing an under custody militant. Over one meter of Amritsar-Khemkaran railway track was blown off in a powerful blast between Balhotoha and Khadiala stations.

Editorial Views Second Rupee Devaluation

BK1107125191 Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Admit, Nehru Model is Dead"]

[Text] A second devaluation of the rupee by nine to 10 percent against the major currencies in less than 18 hours makes clear that these decisions are being taken at the behest of economists of the IMF-World Bank sitting in Washington. India is in for sweeping changes in the economy. It is good of Prime Minister P.V. Narasmha Rao to put a good face on his compulsions. Dr. Manmohan Singh too wants to internalise the measures; he is in no position to resist. Since you cannot withstand the pressure, it is best to join the IMF—this seems to be his logic. These devaluations may not expand our export to offset the enhanced import and repayment liabilities; but that really is not the point at issue. The Government's economic policy converges with the aims of the IMF-World Bank. That congruence is the most important development the country had better be aware of. The surreptitious surrender to Reaganomics is no longer necessary. The economic section of the Congress election manifesto provides the somewhat facile, though frank, rationale of the steps which are being unveiled now. Devaluation is but the first of four IMF demands—the others being deregulation of the economy (that is, end of planning), privatisation and deflation. The Government is going full tilt to meet these terms, no matter how Dr. Singh may package his sell-out. As for devaluation, this has been happening over the years through the processes of exchange market operations. The drastic depreciation of the parity of the rupee with the other hard currencies cannot improve very much our export performance because we do not have the authoritarian political order (which China has) to extract exportable surpluses by depriving domestic consumers. India will be forced to borrow more in order to meet the repayment liabilities increased by the severe devaluation of the rupee. India has signed the bond on the dotted line, and it may procure seven billion dollars as IMF loans. But the debt-trap is ahead. Inflationary pressure, along with the expensive imports, would be enough to overshadow the optimism expressed about a sharp rise in export. The contours of reforms cannot conceal the drastic turn being taken from the Nehruvian model of a mixed economy to unmitigated private capitalism. The Indian model, which included Prof P C Mahalanobis's consumption restraining regime, initially made heavy industries the anchor of an exponential growth. This model was successful. It broadened and diversified the base of our economy. It ensured social peace by stressing economic justice as a goal of development. It must be admitted, however, that the economies of the East Asian countries, which followed a different model, developed at a much faster rate. But their circumstances were different and the social price they have paid is also different. The mixed economy India adopted saved the country from the extremes of social inequity and political authoritarianism. Development concerns not only GNP growth but social well-being also, and India stressed the latter. This model of India requires modifiation; but the baby should not be thrown away with the bathwater. The Government must not forget that the prescription it has accepted is fraught with the dangers of social conflict. If the Nehruvian model is to be scuttled, let the Government openly admit that this has to be done—as the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has been frank enough to say that it wants the end of the model.

Iran

Khamene'i Addresses Clergy on World Issues

LD1107152691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT 11 Jul 91

["Text" of address by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to clergymen on 11 July, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Today, Islam is the target of most hostilities in the world—of course, the hostility of satans. Yet, among the deprived people, it sees the biggest and the deepest love and kindness. But the world bullies resent nothing more than Islam; and the clergy is the forerunner of Islam. For the past 12 or 13 years, that is, since the start of the revolution, the arrogance and

Zionist mass media have waged propaganda against the clergy in various forms. They ridicule the clergy, tell lies, resort to calumny, and make accusations against the great religious ulema and scholars, accusations which befit them and their puppets. These accusations have no significance, and their accusations do not upset us. Rather, we become happy, as we realize that the blow they receive from the clergy is an effective blow.

Today, you hear about the issue of disarmament in the Middle East. The Americans are the standard bearers of this issue. What is their objective in entering this arena? Who are they planning to disarm? Where are most of the weapons in the Middle East region? Who are the biggest source of danger, but the Zionists? This puppet, false, and usurping government of Zionism manufactures, exports, and imports the greatest quantity of weapons. It is the most dangerous entity in this region. It is a constant source of tension. Do the Americans demand that it should either limit its weapons, or disarm? Never. They strengthen it more. You will see that in practice they will arm their lackeys and puppets in the region as much as they can.

What objective are they pursuing? Iraq is not their target. Thanks to the abjectness and feebleness shown by Iraq's tiny satan, they are now roaming freely inside Iraq, and go wherever they wish; and if Saddam Husayn were to resist, they would bang him on the head and would threaten him. They face no difficulty there.

The only target is Islam, the Islamic Republic, and any point where the Islamic movement raises its head. The sensations they create are for the purpose of confronting Islam. This is the extent of their enmity against Islam. They do not mention Islam, but the work—the work plan and work strategy—act in a way which ends in putting pressure on the Islamic world, the Muslims, the Islamic movement, and the Islamic revolution. They are deeply hostile. They devise plans and think of new ideas every day. This is their stance in the face of Islam. Of course, they make mistakes. They will not reach their target. The nations will not accept their proposals. In whatever form they present their disarmament proposal, it will not be acceptable to the nations. [shouts of "God is the greatest"]

When they say that all the countries in the Middle East, that is, the oil-bearing regions, should not have arms, this means that this wealthy area should become completely empty of its resources, and that it should be disarmed in the face of powerful countries. Then they will influence OPEC; push the price of oil up or down; and then no one would dare deprive them of a drop of oil whenever they ask for it. Well, if they want to implement this plan, they will only manage to alienate the nations from whoever they choose as a go-between or agent. This policy will not be accepted by the nations; it will not meet with success. Whether they like it or not, this is the truth of the matter. That is, the ultimate aim is to put the Islamic Republic under pressure and sanctions. But, even if they want to fulfill this aim, they will not be able to.

The Muslim nation of Iran revolted with empty hands in the face of a dumping ground for American arms, and was victorious. Then, in confrontation with a government which was being armed to the teeth by the whole world, from the East to the West, our nation produced and repaired weapons, thanks to its own ability; it obtained weapons from wherever it could, and stood steadfast, ultimately defeating that government.

The nation of Iran will not remain indifferent and allow others to make decisions on its behalf.

This point is presented so that you may see that this is the way the enemies of Islam confront Islam. The clergy must take a formidable step today in order to defend and correctly define this Islam that has had so much impact and reverberation in the world, and has confounded hegemonies. A step which is not so relevant to theory, but to practice. It is in this direction that the clergy should take a great stride. [passage omitted] The clergy has a great responsibility to fulfil, and it should present Islam in such a way that people's hopes, faith, and earnest, devoted presence in this arena are preserved, and—God willing—that our task will be blessed by the imam of the age—may our souls be sacrificed to him. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani Views U.S. Disarmament Proposal

LD1207110191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, delivering the Tehran Friday prayer sermons today on the threshold of the month of Moharram [first month of Arabic lunar calendar] and in the presence of the masses of devotees of His Holiness Aba 'Abdollah Hoseyn [the third Shiite imam known as the Lord of the Martyrs], said that the 'Ashura affair [seventh century martyrdom of the third immaculate Shiite imam] was an unprecedented historic event which has left the greatest impact on the history of Islam and the Muslim ummah.

Explaining the divine move of Imam Hoseyn, peace be upon him, in the month of Muharram, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran said that the Karbala' uprising was a well assessed and logical program which the immaculate imam [Hoseyn] believed to be essential. He enacted it though precise and comprehensive planning.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani later explained some events concerning the Karbala' affair. He said the divine reflections of that incident were additional symptoms proving the angelic nature of that fateful move in the history of Islam.

In the second sermon, explaining the topics of the day in the world, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the issue of disarmament which has been raised by America. Calling it mysterious and ambiguous, he said: The evidence available reinforces our suspicions. Raising the question whether disarmament extends to Israel or not,

he added: The issue is raised at a time when the Zionists continue to be fed with arms by the Americans.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to an issue named the Middle East peace conference. He stressed that all the existing policies of America are within the framework of supporting the Zionist regime and opposing the Muslims. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then referred to topics such as the transfer of Jews from Ethiopia, the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia to occupied Palestine, as well as disarming of Palestinians and threats against Syria. He believed that these examples are evidence testifying to the bad faith of the authors of the Middle East peace conference initiative.

Continuing the prayer sermons, an acting Tehran Friday prayer leader said that the principal assets of Islamic Iran in her confrontation with the plots of arrogance are: the valuable guidance given by the eminent leader [Khamene'i] and the maintenance of unity and alertness. He said the centerpiece of the efforts of the country's enemies is aimed at weakening the unity of the people and disheartening them.

The president said that the forthcoming elections to the Majles are very important. He called on the people to continue their presence on the scene.

In the final part of the sermons, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani surveyed the economic problems and talked about the need to increase output and exports. He then explained the government's policies on those issues. Citing various examples regarding wastage and misuse of goods which the Government subsidizes, the acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran stressed the need to arrive at a balance between consumption and production. He called on all economic planners and critics to look at economic problems from a realistic and fair angle. He asked them to present, in a constructive manner, any projects that they may have drafted. He suggested to them to take a positive approach to the country's problems by being constructive in their criticism, and avoiding efforts at sloganeering and manipulation of popular emotions.

The president stressed: We are all in favor of having the problems thrashed out and difficulties discussed; but also projects must be tabled. Those who claim to work for reform of the country must act constructively and in a friendly manner. They must adopt a correct approach and as such they must put in hard work for the construction of our country.

Speaks at Envoys' Seminar

LD1107134591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] A seminar of Iranian ambassadors and charges d'affaires opened in the holy city of Mashhad today with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In his message, referring to the fact that the principle of Iran's foreign policy, which has achieved great success despite problems and obstacles, is based on independence and nonreliance on foreign powers, the president recounted the important developments in the region and the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, described the most significant examples of events in the region and the world as being the fast development and the all-embracing growth of the Islamic movement, the disintegration of certain apostatic systems, the reunification of Germany, the increase in Europe's trend of coordination, and the upheaval in the global system due to the end of the cold war, the ever-increasing ideological and cultural maturity of nations, and the gap between North and South. He stated: In such circumstances, directing and implementing the principles of the country's foreign relations is an extremely hazardous responsibility.

In another part of his message, he referred to the reconstruction program and the fortifying of the country's economic infrastructure. He added: In accordance with the five-year plan, we intend to utilize the facilities and gain the cooperation of friendly countries. So far, positive developments and measures have taken place in our foreign relations, based on the principles of mutual respect, common interests, and noninterference and domination. These relations, so far as they are in the country's interests, are desirable and necessary, and should be wisely followed up.

He described the Persian Gulf war and its repercussions as the most important political and international incident since the cold was period. He stressed: That war exhibited to the world evidence of the ever-increasing importance of the sensitive Persian Gulf region, and its aftermath revealed the justification of the fundamental stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past few years and, at the same time, the significance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the necessity for it being strong, and the role it can play in maintaining peace and lasting security. We believe that only the regional countries can maintain stability and security in the Persian Gulf region, that the only way to preserve and continue peace and stability is through the cooperation and coordination of the Persian Gulf littoral states, and through giving priority to their regional interests, and that the legitimate rights of everyone would be suitably realized through the establishment of regional cooperation. To that end, the United Nations has a grave responsibility, and the actions of this international body could be constructive and effective. The full and unconditional implementation of Resolution 598 could pave the way as a proper vehicle for realizing lasting peace and stability in the region.

In his message, the president described the problems facing the Muslim people of Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan, Kashmir, and Lebanon as tragedies of our time. He added: A complete and independent Iraq, reliant on the wishes of all the people of that country, could play an effective role in maintining peace and stability in the region.

Regarding the issue of Palestine, he assured. At present, we are witnessing initiatives and actions in the Middle East, most of which are deviant and crude, and being put forward under pretexts such as peace plans and regional conferences. The lack of understanding of the Middle East's profound and historical realities, and particularly the issues of the world of Islam, have resulted in an incorrect interpretation and evaluation. Consequently, the solutions that have so far been put forward have been impractical. Deep-rooted and age-old problems in the region cannot be solved on a short-term basis, quickly, and with a few meetings. Unfortunately, the way the Palestinian issue has been treated so far has lacked the element of justice, and has consequently failed.

The president described the issue of Afghanistan as another currrent problem in the world of Islam. He added: Considering the recent UN efforts, and the relatively positive approach of our Afghan neighbors, we believe that a reasonable solution could be found through seeking a public vote and holding general elections, in which the rights of Afghan men and women are observed. We wish for a free, independent, nonalinged and Islamic Afghanistan.

Referring to the unjust conditions prevailing in today's world, he said: We must express our sorrow over the unjust conditions prevailing in today's world, the results of which are poverty, ignorance, shortage of medical facilities, and nepotism in many parts of the world. We sympathize with the woes of the oppressed and deprived nations of the world, and are prepared to help them to the best of our ability. The Islamic movement is going through a sensitive stage in today's world. The alertness of the world's Muslims and their unity, coupled with utilizing their huge material and spiritual resources, could play a significant role in solving the current problems of the world of Islam.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani recommended to the ambassadors and charges d'affaires that, while considering the instructions of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, they seriously strive to establish communication and reflect a clear picture of the issues and the expansion of relations through their more active presence in their assigned countries, and establish strong contacts with various politicians, people, and factions.

UN Decision To Send Delegation to Iraq Praised

LD1107224491 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, 11 July (IRNA)—Iran in a letter to the United Nations Secretary General on Thursday welcomed the UN decision to dispatch a high level delegation to Iraq to safeguard the lives of the innocent civilians saying that the move is a belated but a necessary step.

A high-ranking UN delegation is in Iraq since last Saturday to investigate the issue.

The letter submitted by the Iranian UN representative stressed that the announcement by the UN spokesman that 30 to 100 thousand Iraqi civilians have been under Iraqi military siege an hour [sentence incomplete as received] Al-Hammar has further illustrated that international concerns voiced in the past few months have been very much justified.

The letter noted that according to the information available to Iran, many more face similar imminent danger in other marshlands of southern Iraq.

Last month, with further deterioration of the situation in southern Iraq, Tehran called on the UN secretary general to take steps to stop repetition of another catastrophe in Iraq.

The letter also regretted that the Iraqi authorities in response to the well-founded expressions of concern by the Iranian Government have resorted to baseless allegations and assertions against the Islamic republic which "go outside the norms of international conduct and even contain unacceptable threats."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to be committed to its policy of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and the principle of noninterference in internal affairs of others."

It also recommended the Iraqi Government "to cease its hostile words and deeds directed against Iran...and halt the actions and policies that have given rise to serious international concern over the fate of innocent Iraqi civilians."

Tehran Radio Discusses Iraqi Nuclear Program

NC1107171391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Following the visits to Iraq by high-level UN teams of experts to inspect areas suspected of containing nuclear equipment and material and the ruthless U.S. follow-up, the Iraqi president, in a detailed letter to the United Nations, finally admitted he has a program for obtaining nuclear weapons.

According to most experts, various forms of intense pressure, especially the United States' use of Security Council Resolutions, persuaded Iraq to make this admission. According to Resolution 687, Iraq should have destroyed or incapacitated all the installations, equipment, and material which could be used to produce chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. The atmosphere the Western media created over the past two weeks focused international attention on Iraq's uncooperative attitude and its obstruction of the UN teams and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] efforts, particularly the Iraqi officials' exacerbation of the situation by their efforts to conceal the above-mentioned

installations and the incident in which shots were fired in the air at the UN experts. Every step the United States has taken against Iraq has gradually forced it into a position of submission and retreat.

Bush and several U.S. military officials did not rule out using force against Iraq on this issue. The United States and the United Nations did not view Iraq's letter to the United Nations listing its equipment and nuclear and atomic resources favorably, but termed Iraq's admission of its uranium enrichment program an overt violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, of which Iraq is a signatory.

Ever since the end of the seventies, the Iraqi leaders have been involved in an intense effort to gain access to nuclear energy. They signed some agreements with France and the Soviet Union, countries which at that time had close ties to the Ba'thist rulers, and began implementing projects for the construction of two nuclear reactors by France and one by the Soviet Union. In 1982, however, Israel—in an air strike which was part of a program whose exact objectives have not been revealed—destroyed one of the reactors that had been almost completed by France.

This did not deter the Iraqi rulers from continuing their efforts to obtain nuclear energy, however, and they took advantage of the opportunities provided by the war with Iran and the immense support they received from Western governments and various other sources to take steps toward acquiring nuclear power. Iraq expanded its knowledge of nuclear issues with the collaboration and assistance of the countries capable of transferring nuclear technology, and, according to most reports, even learned to duplicate this technology, paving the way for the construction of a fourth reactor.

Regional observers believe that the Iraqi leaders' efforts to acquire nuclear capability have been part of the expansionist objectives of the great powers, especially the United States, in the sensitive Persian Gulf region. In other words, the Iraqi leaders' intense desire to achieve superiority in the region was in harmony with the regional interests of the great powers for a certain period of time. Following the dismemberment of the Eastern front against the West and the subsequent change in U.S. foreign policy priorities, however, the United States changed its stance and began to consider a policy weakening the Iraqi leader to be the best way to ensure U.S. interests in the region.

Most military experts believe that the United States was able to completely destroy Iraq's nuclear installations with its extraordinary air and military capability during the oil war. Some believe that, even now, the United States could use its remaining forces in the region or the military power of its allied forces to force Iraq to implement the conditions of the cease-fire, without needing any widespread propaganda. The United States has refrained from doing so for several reasons which will be revealed gradually as they are implemented in various plans.

The majority of political analysts consider the U.S. regional and international objectives to be of utmost importance to this issue. It appears that the U.S. leaders do not want to leave the Persian Gulf region very quickly. While the repercussions of the oil war are still being felt, they are seeking to implement their long-term plans. If they once again succeed at mobilizing various governments and international organizations on the pretext of implementing UN resolutions, the U.S. capability to direct regional events in favor of its global strategy will be strengthened, even if it results in another war or a restricted military operation against Iraq, which is very possible, despite the fact that some believe the current international climate is not conducive to another military action.

Considering the way events have been unfolding, whether the present situation culminates in another military action against Iraq, or whether the United Nations will be satisfied on Iraq's nuclear controversy without a war, the U.S. leaders will find a new pretext to continue their presence. If this turns out to be the case, the best solution for preventing incidents such as the occupation of Kuwait and its subsequent problems is to assure that the countries of the region have strong ties and do not have to deal with tension-generating issues.

Paper Warns of Dangers to Relations With Syria

NC1107211891 Tehran SALAM in Persian 8 Jul 91 p 12

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The disarming of the Islamic forces in Lebanon and the combatant Palestinians is being condemned and is being called a move to benefit the Zionist regime. Since the oil war ended, the United States has been seeking to resolve Israel's problems in the region once and for all and to force the region's governments to officially recognize the despotic Zionist regime. [passage omitted]

Tehran does not believe that Damascus will try to impose its influence on the region now that Baghdad has been distanced from the scene, a situation which Iran considers a "temporary" phenomenon.

Tehran and Damascus also differ over the issue of disarming the Palestinians in southern Lebanon, which has been unanimously deplored by all Iranian publications. The TEHRAN TIMES, which reflects only the government view, wrote that this step (the disarming of the Palestinians) is detrimental to Palestinian aspirations.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, in a more harshly worded position, has criticized the Lebanese Government's actions seeking to disarm the Palestinians with Syria's support as the completion of the effort Israel

initiated in 1982 with its occupation of Lebanon. In Iran's opinion, the various paramilitary Islamic groups, which Iran calls "Islamic Resistance groups," should retain their weapons in view of the particular situation in Lebanon, which is partly under Israeli occupation.

Iran, which recently hosted some leaders of the pro-Iranian Islamic groups of Lebanon, supports Hizballah, a group that opposes the Amal movement which is led by Nabih Birri and is closer to Syria. [passage omitted]

Iran opposes the official recognition of Israel, does not have diplomatic relations with the United States, and completely opposes U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace efforts. This position is tantamount to criticism of Damascus, which agrees with Baker's moves.

Iran's foreign minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, recently stressed that Israel is an illegitimate country, and that only Palestine is legitimate.

Iran's higher echelons have repeatedly stressed that the U.S. actions all seek to force the Arab countries to officially recognize Israel.

Paper Views U.S. Position on Israeli Security

NC1207114991 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 4 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Disarming the Muslims in Lebanon?"]

[Text] The United States has called for disarming of Muslim revolutionaries in Lebanon. Washington has urged Syria and Lebanon, through its ambassadors to the two countries, to take measures towards disarming Palestinian guerrillas as well as the Hizballah revolutionary movement, that is the only survivors of the active anti-Zionist forces beyond the borders of the Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

The White House has made any financial and military aid to Lebanon, demanded by the government of Ilyas al-Hirawi, conditional to disarming of the said groups.

Following Washington's persistence to disarm the Muslim revolutionaries who are a threat to Israel in the region, the Lebanese President al-Hirawi who has come to power in line with the al-Ta'if Accord, has been quoted as saying: "It is our right not to allow the Palestinians and the Hizballah to fire missiles against Israel from inside Lebanon." He had also announced earlier on that "Lebanon can no more tolerate the presence of paramilitary forces in the south."

What Lebanon's Syrian-backed government is trying to do by ordering troops to take over the PLO's main stronghold in the south and those of the Hizballah, is in fact the accomplishment of a task the Zionist regime set out to achieve when it invaded Lebanon in 1982.

The repeated diplomatic shuttles of the U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense to Israel, the announcement on the transfer and stockpiling of the American weapons brought into the region for the war with Iraq to Israel, as well as the recent call by the Americans stressing the need for immediate disarming of the Muslims of southern Lebanon all indicate attempts to carry out a sinister plot against the Muslim Umma in the Middle East. The U.S., after defeating Iraq in the Persian Gulf war and becoming the world's indisputable power, intends to gradually impose its sovereignty throughout the world, including the rich Middle East.

To attain this goal, the U.S. needs confident and guaranteed tools so that they would play their demanded role under any circumstances. In the Middle East region which is perhaps the most important region for the U.S., these tools should enjoy more efficiency and safety factors. But despite having Arab and Turkish friends as well as bases in the Persian Gulf, the United States seems to be lacking the needed confidence from this side.

Therefore all the ways lead to Israel. In Washington's ultimate scheme, the regime occupying Qods would be able to control the Middle East, meet America's demands, and guarantee its interests. But these all depend on further strengthening of Tel Aviv and removing possible dangers out of its way.

In this way the main reason behind Washington's pressure on the Lebanese and Syrian government to disarm the Muslim revolutionaries in southern Lebanon becomes clear. The dark prospect of implementation of this American plan too is well predictable.

After all the logic of Ilyas al-Hirawi's government regarding the disarming of the Muslim groups in Lebanon is nothing but to justify Washington's policies to ensure Tel Aviv's security.

Rafsanjani Receives Head of Justice Tribunal

LD1007164591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, today received the new head of the Administrative Justice Tribunal [divan-e 'edalet-e edari] In this meeting, Mr. 'Abbasi-Fard, the new head of the Administrative Justice Tribunal, presenting a detailed report on the duties, legal position, and the prerogatives and rights of this organization, said: The Administrative Justice Tribunal regards itself as the guardian of the rights of the public and will safeguard the justice of the Islamic government regarding the rights of the public.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing his support for this sensitive legal organization, said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's system does not regard anything superior to the divine laws and the rights of the public, and nothing and no one is of more importance to it than justice and law. Therefore, it is necessary for the Administrative Justice Tribunal to act strongly according to its legal duties, to decide the just course, and to announce it. The president added: The government will not allow anyone anywhere

to break the laws and go against the laws. It expects the Administrative Justice Tribunal to be, as its name implies, a safe and secure shelter and supporter for the public on the basis of law. It would be a source of pleasure if the people could feel that this organization acts on the basis of justice.

During the meeting, Brigadier General 'Oqba'i, the commander of the greater Tehran security region, submitting a report on the activities in that region, said: After the merging of security forces, we have had considerable success in the implementation of the duties entrusted upon us, especially in fighting against social corruption and narcotics.

Karrubi Meets Hungarian Muslim Leader

LD1007164391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The leader of Hungary's Muslim community today met Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. He explained the situation of Muslims in Hungary and submitted a report on the Islamic community of that country.

In return, Mr. Karrubi stressed the need for continuation and strengthening of Islamic movements on a worldwide scale. Later, referring to comprehensive support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for these movements as well as for Islamic uprisings in Lebanon, Afghaistan, Palestine, and Kashmir, he expressed the belief that the paralysis of the base of socialism in the East-bloc countries, including Hungary, had prepared the ground for a good opportunity to spread Islam all over the world.

Borujerdi Meets With Afghan Opposition Delegation

NC0707063391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Jul 91

[Text] A delegation representing Afghanistan's Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], which recently returned from a visit to Pakistan, has met with Mr. Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania. The spokesman for the group, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi, reported to Mr. Borujerdi on the delegation's visit to Pakistan and its talks with Pakistani officials and leaders of Afghan mujahidin groups, which he termed highly useful and constructive.

Mr. Mortazavi said that the Hezb-e Vahdat-e Eslami believes that the political gains of the Muslim Afghan nation's resistance are the result of the mujahedin's solidarity and unity and the Islamic Republic of Iran's multifaceted support.

Mr. Borujerdi emphasized this support, noting: At this stage in the struggle, political activity is as important as military combat, and it can be an important factor in achieving final victory and establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan. The deputy foreign minister added that the Islamic Republic of Iran is seeking to forge close and sincere cooperation with the neighboring fraternal country of Pakistan. He also said that Iran will continue to do all it can to enable the Muslim people of Afghanistan to fulfill their aspirations.

Paper Urges Improvements to Quality of Products

LD1007090191 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Tehran, 10 July, IRNA—The Iranian Government must pay serious attention to the question of improving the quality of Iranian products, the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' suggested in its editorial Wednesday.

Underlining that the government has over the years helped the manufacturing sector in various ways, the English daily said "these supports were never intended to be a government-issued carte blanche to let Iranian industries to have unrestricted access to the domestic markets with goods at whatever quality they think fit."

Stating that a substantial portion of the Iranian manufacturing sector do not exercise quality control, it believed, "some products are downright dangerous and if they are foodstuffs very hazardous to health." "In short, manufacturers seem to have taken government's goodwill for granted and taken it for a ride."

The daily suggested that the government must be equally vocal about manufacturing concerns which produce shabby products as it is towards counterrevolutionaries, hoarders and profiteers, "since the damaget they inflict on the Islamic Republic is just as great."

Believing that the whole philosophy underlying the support for the Iranian industries were intended to reduce Iran's dependence on foreign sources, it concluded that producing with inferior quality has the exact opposite result. It increases dependence on foreign countries and wastes scarce resources and may result in emergence of a feeling among the public that the nation is not capable of producing anything of quality.

Nepal & Bhutan

Premier Comments on Relations With India

BK1007163291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] The prime minister of Nepal, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, has said that Nepal's relations with India have to be realistic, taking into account long-term interests of the Himalayan kingdom. Replying to points raised by members in the House of Representatives during discussion on the royal address, Mr. Koirala said that India-Nepal relations are interdependent in nature. He said this cannot be construed as tilting toward India.

Koirala on Country's 'Grave' Economic Situation

BK1107005891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1930 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 10 (AFP)—Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told parliament Wednesday that Nepal was facing a grave economic situation and called on all parties to cooperate in dealing with it. During a question and answer session on the government's policies for fiscal 1991-92, starting July 16, Mr. Koirala said "There should be only opposition but not rivalry in politics," adding "I don't consider the opposition members as my enemies or rivals."

"The world is watching us whether we will be able to safeguard the democratic procedure in Nepal, so we all have to be cautious and cooperative for its healthy growth. The most important duty of our government is to provide economic relief to the rural poor and to the common people who are pinning high hopes for economic comfort from the elected government," he added.

He said he had fulfilled his commitment to make public the recent report of the Mullik commission on excesses committed by the ousted panchayat government. A three-man judicial commission headed by eastern regional court Chief Judge J.L. Mullik had been assigned to review the government's actions during a 50-day period of anti-panchayat agitation early last year. The partyless panchayat system of government fell following the mass unrest, but not before an estimated 500 or more people were killed.

"We will follow the rule of law to penalize any of the panchayat leaders whether for the excesses committed by them during (the anti-government) movement or for embezzlement of public money," he added.

Referring to the current civil service pay dispute, Mr. Koirala said "Our government has never called the demands of the civil servants' unreasonable. But they should also realise the economic [word indistinct] tenancy rights.

He said his government would provide top priority to the agricultural sector and implement programmes to produforests, he said "We are [words indistinct]."

[Words indistinct] leader, Mana Mohan Adhikari, of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) said "The country is facing a grave crisis of law and order which has to be tackled immediately before it explodes threatening the newly established democratic stystem in the country. He also advised the formation of a "law and order monitoring" body in parliament. "Without control of the law and order problems politically, it is going to seriously affect the country's development process."

Civil Servants' Protest for Better Pay Widens

BK1207005091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1840 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 11 (AFP)—About 1,400 civil servants across Nepal put down their pens for three hours Thursday to protest the suspension of three of their colleagues amid a widening campaign for better pay and benefits, a union leader said. Mohan Bahadur K. C., secretary general of the Nepal Civil Servants' Association, said almost all the government departments and ministries in Kathmandu were touched by the action.

"Altogether 1,400 civil servants within and outside Kathmandu districts have joined the agitation to press the government to meet our demands for transport and health facilities and increase housing and educational allowances," he said. "We will observe hourly pen down strikes every day from Friday and increase the duration from one hour on the first day and then to two hours and so on we will go on adding one hour daily till our demands are met."

The strikers were also protesting the suspension from their jobs of three senior civil servants who participated in the protest movement, which began July 6. Twelve other official-rank civil servants, who are barred by the government from joining a union, have been called to explain why they joined the protests.

The opposition parties, led by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) which strongly supports the civil servants' campaign, walked out of the Wednesday session of the house of representatives in protest after the government refused to investigate a police shooting a few days before. At least one person was killed and several others woanded during the incident at Arghakhanchi, 400 kilometers (250 miles) west of Nepal, according to a parliamentary source.

New Government's Budget Aims at Rural Areas

BK1207005891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1809 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 11 (AFP)—Nepal's newly elected government Thursday introduced a 26.64 billion rupee (624 million dollar) budget aimed at developing rural areas of this impoverished Himalayan Kingdom. In a budget speech broadcast on national television, Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya announced that 70 per cent of development expenditure would be allocated to "rural economy and infrastructure development."

"Of the total 26.64 billion rupee annual budget, 16.89 billion rupees (396 million dollars) has been allocated to development expenditure aiming to achieve annual national economic growth of 4.6 per cent during the next year," Mr. Acharya, a 37-year-old German-trained economist, said.

The budget for the current fiscal year totals 24.48 billion rupees (573 million dollars), according to revised estimates.

In the speech, Mr. Acharya also announced a 50 per cent cut in duties on products imported from China in order to make them more competitive with goods from India. Some 9.74 billion rupees (228 million dollars) has been allocated to pay the salaries of civil servants, military personnel, police, judicial services, teachers and doctors.

The government is counting on collecting 11.83 billion rupees (277 million dollars), or 44.4 per cent of the budget from foreign loans or grants. The budget will leave a deficit of 2.08 billion rupees (49 million dollars), which is to be covered by domestic borrowing and the sale of treasury bills.

In the 90-minute speech, Mr. Acharya said the ruling Nepali Congress aimed to share any of the fruits of development with the poorest people in Nepal, to reduce unproductive public expenditure and mobilize the country's resources.

Birendra Presents Government Policy Statement

BK1107114991 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 2 Jul 91 pp 1, 7

[Text of the government policy statement presented by King Birendra at the joint parliamentary session in Kathmandu on 1 July]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on summary of policy] Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the National Assembly and Members of Parliament.

At the outset of the Address to the first session of the highest legislative body under the multiparty political system, we would like to offer our respects to all martyrs, known and unknown.

It is known to all that in accordance with the aspiration and will of the people, we, on Kartik 23, 2047 Bikram era corresponding to November 9, 1990 AD, proclaimed the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 2047, incorporating such basic features as multiparty democracy, constitutional monarchy, sovereignty of the people and guarantee of fundamental rights.

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to address for the first time the members of both Houses of the newly constituted Parliament following the general elections on the basis of adult franchise under this Constitution. On this momentous occasion, we welcome the popularly elected representatives and parliamentarians and express our sincere wishes for the success of the parliamentary system.

It is now our common responsibility to preserve and develop the democracy brought about by the will and aspsirations of the people. In view of My Government, only when the fruits of economic development reach the poor and the destitute within the framework of the well accepted system, will democracy thrive and be lasting in the country. The truth has to be accepted without reservation that the majority of our people are afflicted with hunger, disease and illiteracy. For our rural population deprived of basic needs and amenities, life with dignity has become increasingly difficult. A large bulk of our population has not at all benefitted by development efforts so far in the country. The rural people who should have been the real beneficiary of economic development have remained the most backward and deprived of social justice. The greatest challenge before the newly emergent democracy is to ensure social justice primarily to the poor and the destitute who are so far relegated to the last place, so that they reap the benefits of development.

If the multiparty democracy is to be made meaningful and just, it is imperative that a national consensus is evolved in the country in this regard. People fortunate enough to enjoy certain facilities and services, however meagre, should not clamour for the increase and extension of their own amenities. They should rather goad the government towards investing the country's wealth and resources for the benefit of the less fortunate and scarcity-laden people.

My Government's entire programme will be governed by this egalitarian attitude and commitment to establishing social justice. The policy and programme of the government will be aimed not only at the optimum growth of national production but also at its equitable distribution. With highest priority to rural development, the policy of increased national investment in the rural sector will be pursued. Priority will be accorded to the policy and programme of increasing productive employment opportunities with a view to eliminating poverty and also of providing drinking water, education, health and road transport services to the rural population. It is not possible for the government alone to bear single-handedly this heavy responsibility of nation-building.

For this reason, it will be the policy of My Government to expand broad participation of private sector in development activities, to encourage national and foreign non-governmental capital, and in tune with national priorities and interests to attract foreign investment. To attain these objectives, a beginning will be made in the formulation and implementation of the next Eighth Plan with the participation of the people and their representatives. Appropriate reform will be effected with regard to the composition and functioning of the National Planning Commission.

Mr Government will take concrete steps towards price stabilization with a view to providing relief to the common people. To that end, along with desired reforms in the fiscal and monetary policies, private sector will be generally encouraged to ensure regular supply of consumer goods as well as development and construction materials. However, should any trend towards price rise through artificial scarcity in supply be discernible, the government will not only intervene in the market but also take necessary steps to arrest artificial price rise through stern administrative measures. My Government will lay emphasis on greater revenue mobilization by making the revenue administration simple, clean and

efficient through introduction of necessary reforms and dynamic restructuring of the existing tariff rates.

My Government will set a tradition of accepting external assistance only in such projects as would provide direct benefit to the people in terms of employment, investment and result in accordance with our national priority. The on-going development projects will be reviewed in this light.

With a view to making the administrative machinery more efficient, productive and people-oriented in order to provide development benefits to the most backward sectors of the population, a process of appropriate reform will be initiated. The past thirty-two years have witnessed the ever-expanding administrative machinery beyond the capacity of the economy to sustain it. The existing administrative structure will therefore be reviewed and redundant agencies closed down, keeping in mind both the interests of the service personnel and the country's needs.

The quality and self-respect of competent and honest civil servants will be protected by means of a more effective Public Service Commission and tendency towards corruption and dishonesty will be eliminated. My Government will constitute a Pay Commission to submit suggestions based on analysis of the country's existing economy and the pay scales of government employees.

In order to render the agricultural sector more productive, My Government will ensure easy availability of agricultural production-inputs to the farmers by effecting reforms in the functioning of village-level cooperative societies. Steps will be taken towards making loans, agricultural inputs and services available to the farmers under a single umbrella arrangement. The government will provide agricultural loans to the farmer on easy terms. Setting up fertilizer factory within the country will be encouraged as a matter of policy to increase supply and the use of organic fertilizer will be stressed. The policy of My Government will be to purchase agricultural produce from the farmers at reasonable prices and in time. There will be broad extension of animal husbandry and medical services.

The skill and knowledge of youth, women and educated sections in the rural areas will be channelized into various productive and income-generating programmes of agricultural development. Employment opportunities will be generated through the promotion of agro-industries. Efforts will be made to maintain environmental balance through improvement of land-use situation by means of appropriate agricultural and forest development in Terai, Mountain and Himalayan regions.

My Government will initiate action aimed at abolishing dual ownership of land based on thorough examination of experiences to date concerning land reforms. New technology and methodology will be used in the collection of land revenue as well as in land administration. Programmes to ensure the tiller's right over 'Guthi' lands will be formulated, without prejudice to the operation of the Guthi'. Basic maps so useful in the formulation of development projects will be prepared through the establishment of geodetic control points.

My Government will strictly implement the policy of preservation and scientific management of forests. Structural changes will be effected for ensuring broad public participation in forest development programmes. Priority will be given to community forest development programmes and regular output and supply of forest produce will be increased. Effort will be made to sensitize the general public to the need to prevent such environmental degradation as deforestation, floods, landslide, land-erosions by developing school curriculum on the inter-relationship between forest and environment.

With a view to ensuring optimum use of the existing irrigation projects, their efficient operation and maintenance and also for their additional extension, My Government will favour local participation.

Efforts to secure resources and means for multi-purpose projects with a view to meeting the long-term irrigation needs will continue. In the next fiscal year, facilities will be provided to irrigate additional 38,000 hectares of land. Priority will be accorded to river-training works to prevent erosion of agricultural lands.

Extension of electric transmission lines in rural areas and private sector participation in small hydro-electric projects will be the policy of the Government.

With regard to large hydro-electric projects, dialogue with friendly countries and international agencies will continue and efforts for developing infrastructural works will persist.

The programmes to ensure pure drinking water to every individual in the urban and the rural areas in the next ten years will be implemented as a matter of high priority by My Government. Appropriate and economical rural cleanliness programmes will also be implemented. In order to provide comfortable settlement in rural areas, rural housing schemes will be taken up. Appropriate urban development and housing projects will be undertaken with a view to solving the problems relating to services, facilities and housing resulting from population growth and haphazard settlements in the cities.

My Government will review the effectiveness of the relief programmes carried out for the victims of earthquake of 1988 A.D.

My Government will accord priority to the construction of the remaining sector of the East-West Highway, North-South Highways and feeder roads linking these highways with district headquarters as well as to the repair and maintenance of the roads already completed. To facilitate agricultural market extension and rural transportation, construction of motorable roads of local

importance will be undertaken with government assistance and voluntary labour, cooperation and participation of the people. The Government will encourage the construction and maintenance of mule- tracks, footpaths and suspension bridges in remote rural areas. Feasibility studies of electric transportation and ropeway services in various parts of the country will be conducted.

In the field of industry, My Government will give priority to agro-based, labour-intensive and indigenous content-based industries and encourage such others which are export-oriented and make import substitution possible. My Government will extend cooperation to private sector, promote private sector's participation and create an atmosphere conducive to investment.

Necessary policy measures will be initiated with a view to privatizing several of the sick industrial and commercial public sector establishments or inviting private sector participation in their management.

Monetary and fiscal policy reforms will be effected in order to divert the existing flow of private sector capital from unproductive and non-priority areas to productive and employment generating sectors. The prevailing licencing system in trade and industry and the attendant administrative procedural complexity will be simplified.

The "one-window system" for facilitating administrative services to investors in industrial and commercial sectors will be strengthened. Encouragement will be given to the development and promotion of cottage industries and stress will be laid on the establishment of a centre for development and transfer of technology necessary for small-scale industries.

My Government will adopt a commercial policy of promoting exports through maximum production of export-oriented goods and better quality control. Policy based encouragement will be provided for control of imports of luxury goods and for easy availability of goods of daily necessities for the people. Small traders' participation in commercial sector will be encouraged. My Government will remain effortful for the conclusion of trade and transit treaties and agreement on cooperation to control unauthorised trade with India.

While protecting the country's cultural heritage and maintaining environmental balance, My Government will promote tourism activities and extend services and amenities at places of tourist attraction. Along with attracting domestic and foreign investment in tourism sector, joint international tourism promotion programmes will also be carried out in order to increase private sector participation in this area. Airline services will be made competitive and necessary incentive will be provided also to private sector with a view to extending air services and facilities to additional areas in the country.

My Government will introduce decentralized administration so that local people themselves are able to carry out local-level development works and solve their problems locally. Towards that end, legislations will be enacted so that the local units in the village, town and district are made effective, endowed with necessary powers.

By orientating local development programmes towards poverty elimination, programmes will be carried out for direct benefit to remote areas, to women, children and the deprived sections of the society. Programmes for preparing records and inventories of the Kingdom's religious establishments and their priceless heritage will be carried out and their preservation will be undertaken.

My Government will formulate a new policy relating to education and culture, based on evaluation in totality of the existing policies and programmes in this field. Within the next ten years, opportunities for primary education will be provided to all children of school-going age at the primary level. Education up to high school level will be expanded and made free in a gradual manner. The scope of literacy campaign will be broadened.

Emphasis will be given to the development and extension of technical schools to prepare basic and middle-level skilled manpower so useful for rural development. Education for women will be encouraged and opportunities for education in remote areas further developed. Population education will be expanded.

Policy incentive will be provided to the opening of additional universities. To enhance the quality of education, programmes for appropriate curriculum development, reforms in examination systems and teachers' training will be encouraged. My Government will pay special attention to the preservation of cultural and religious heritage and development and promotion of arts, music, dance, culture, language and literature of various social and ethnic groups.

My Government will take effective steps to provide basic health services to all people within the next ten years. To that end, preventive health services will be extended to each village and curative medical services made easily available. Health posts and hospital services coupled with referral system will be improved with a view to making primary health services available to one and all. Population growth rate will be brought under control. Special programmes to substantially reduce infant and maternity mortality rates will be carried out. My Government will encourage Ayurvedic [Ancient Indian Medical Science] system of medicine and herbal processing and research.

My Government will expand such skill-oriented development training as would further generate employment in the country. Employment and information centres will be set up to render necessary advisory services to educated skilled manpower regarding employment. My government will be effortful to promote understanding between labour and management and to maintain industrial peace by contributing to the healthy development of trade unions.

My Government will take steps to improve the lot of the economically and socially backward classes and to secure social justice for the helpless, old and the disabled. Social and economic development programmes for women will be carried out further as a matter of priority. Programmes for upholding children's rights and welfare will also be taken up. My Government will remain alert to safeguard the judicious rights and facilities of the workers and to establish social justice.

My Government will encourage the development of free, healthy and fair journalism which alone can guarantee the freedom of press and the people's right to information. In the context of extending the telecommunication services to the rural areas, telephone facilities will be extended to different places in each development region. Along with an increase in telephone-exchange capacity at various places, digital exchange services will also be expanded.

The Government will explore the possibility of using satellite to expand the telecasting area of Nepal Television. Extension of efficient postal services covering each village development committee in the country will be the policy of the Government.

My Government will effect timely reforms to make the home administration clean and effective. In the changed context of multiparty democracy, necessary guidelines and reforms will be evolved in respect of police responsibilities and organisation. Police force will be developed as an institution endowed with self-respect, high morality and humility and dedicated to service to the people. For the sake of stability and consolidation of democracy, the government will pursue the policy of generating public awareness and taking effective administrative measures against those engaged in social unrest, criminal activities and use and trafficking of contrabands. Programmes aimed at developing the efficacy of home administration as an agency capable of creating infrastructure to deal with natural disasters and events and providing immediate relief will be carried out. My Government will initiate necessary actions with regard to declaration of martyrs.

My Government will operate the Royal Nepalese Army as a reliable and cooperative force of the people, by making it efficient and capable and involving its participation in various development and relief works in the country. It will also continue to be used in fulfillment of the nation's role in peace-keeping operation at the call of the United Nations.

My Government will make judicial administration people-oriented, impartial, independent and easily accessible to all. Necessary legislations will be enacted for the protection of children's rights, in conformity with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 A.D.

The objective of Nepal's foreign policy will be the preservation of the nation's independence and sovereignty and promotion of national self-respect and interest, keeping in mind My Government's commitment to democracy and human rights.

My Government will pursue the policy of peace and friendship with all countries of the world as well as support for the United Nations and adherence to the ideals inherent in its Charter.

My Government will consolidate the strong bonds of friendship and mutual trust with our neighbours, India and China. Nepal will continue the policy of deepening regional cooperation and understanding between the countries of South Asia. My Government will play an effective role at the United Nations in such questions as controlling conventional arms-race, saving mankind from the scourge of nuclear weapons, seeking peaceful settlement of all international disputes and preserving fundamental human rights.

My Government expresses its gratitude to all friendly countries and international organisations for their cooperation in the country's economic development. It is the hope of My Government that in the open, multiparty democratic set-up of a developing country such as ours, more liberal cooperation will be forthcoming on their part.

May Lord Pashupatinath bless us all! Jai [Hail] Nepal

Pakistan

Sharif Says Nuclear Restrictions Unacceptable

BK1107154591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has categorically stated that Pakistan has not and will not bargain on its peaceful nuclear program. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad had explained Pakistan's position during his visit to the United States, and this position is that Pakistan will not accept unilateral and discriminatory restrictions on its nuclear program. The prime minister referred to his recent proposal to make the South Asian region free from nuclear weapons and said it is now up to the big powers to make India accept the proposal.

About reports of a conspiracy to destroy Pakistan's nuclear installations, the prime minister said we will never tolerate any country allowing the use of its territory for this objective. He said necessary directives have been issued to ensure the safety of nuclear facilities.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said he can tolerate conspiracies against him, but will not tolerate any conspiracy against the country. He welcomed the Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain's recent statement in which he said he will not let any conspiracy against the country succeed and will work with the Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad government.

Nawaz Sharif also expressed the government's desire to work for strengthening the present democratic system. Answering another question, he said the government wants to take the opposition along while dealing with all major issues, and it will welcome their positive role in this regard.

Paper Views Pressler Amendment on Nuclear Arms

BK1107093991 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Jul 91 p 11

[Ghani Eirabie article: "U.S. and India's New Build-Up"]

[Text] Through a new draft law, professedly intended to curb nuclear proliferation, the US in effect has accorded ex-post facto sanction to acquisition of illegal nuclear arsenals by India, Israel and South Africa. This has been done with a clever reformulation of the Pressler Amendment ostensibly designed to equate India with Pakistan by requiring New Delhi to secure a Presidential certification, much as Islamabad does, to qualify for American assistance. The 1985 Pressler Amendment requires the U.S. President to certify that "Pakistan does not possess a nuclear explosive device and that U.S. assistance to Pakistan will reduce the risk that Pakistan will acquire such a device."

Applied to India in this form and backed by comparable sanctions, the latest U.S. House legislation would have constituted an honest move to bring about parity between India and Pakistan in the enforcement of U.S.A.'s anti-nuclear-proliferation legislation. But this has not been done. The amended Pressler Amendment implicitly permits India to retain its existing stockpiles of atom bombs and the proposed ban applies only to any "additional nuclear explosive devices" acquired in future, during fiscal 1992-93, to be precise. Having already built a formidable nuclear arsenal, India can easily forgo the luxury of making any additions to it.

Contrasting India's position with Pakistan's, UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] correspondent in Washington P.K. Arura told BBC June 14: "....but in the case of India, President Bush has (only) to certify that India does not possess any "additional" nuclear devices. It means that they (USA) will not take into account what India has done all these years." And what 'India has done all these years has been outlined by Carnegie endownment's resident nuclear scientist Leonard Spector in his survey of "New Nuclear Nations" and his 1990 Report on "nuclear ambitions".

Spector recalls with deep concern the fact that India's "Four unsafeguarded nuclear reactors—Madras I & II nuclear power plants and the Circus and Dhurva nuclear research reactors—together with two plutonium extraction plants at Tarapur and Bhaba Atomic Research Centre, form the backbone of India's nuclear weapons capability by permitting the production of plutonium not subject to international controls. All these reactors, however, require heavy water to operate. But India has experienced serious shortages in its domestic heavy water production, which hampered operation of Madras I and II and Dhurva reactors. Despite this shortage, India was able to place these units in service between 1983 and '85."

Spector's curiosity how India secured the heavy water was answered in 1988-89 by German investigators who disclosed that India clandestinely obtained 250 tons of heavy water through West German broker Alfred Hempel, employing a variety of tricks and subterfuges, from half a dozen countries including Scandinavia and the Soviet Union. Spector commented wryly: It is the inordinately heavy illegal imports that have enabled India to commission the "three largest of the unsafeguarded reactors during the mid-1980's."

Additional disclosures during 1989 show secret Indian imports of 210 lbs of "high purity beryllium from West Germany, used in nuclear weapons and in nuclear reactors." And a portion of beryllium originated in the United States. So did the heavy water which India illegally used to explode its first nuclear device in 1974—followed nevertheless by more generous shipment of 38 tons of enriched uranium in 1980 by President Carter, who additionally persuaded or pressured France in 1982 to take over further exports of enriched uranium to India—even as Carter forced France to cancel its contract to sell a nuclear reactor to Pakistan for power generation.

Nuclear experts point out that India's fast-breeder reactor at Kalapokkam near Madras is an assemblyline factory capable of producing one bomb every week. According to a Carnegie Endownment publication: "Between mid-1984 and mid-85 there was increasing evidence that India is moving towards an undeclared nuclear arsenal"; and Leonard Spector cited the Indian Prime Minister's June 5, 1985 interview to LE MONDE to make the point that all the components of a bomb are already on the assemblyline and the bomb is only a few screwdriver turns away. Subsequent reports suggest India already has built up a sizeable arsenal and currently is engaged in refining its nuclear weapons further—conceivably with the help of the Gray supercomputer recently supplied by USA.

India's nuclear breakthrough was indirectly confirmed by the Indian delegation to an ISSI [Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad]-sponsored seminar in Islamabad in the first week of September 1987. Indian scholar Bhanai Sen Gupta explained New Delhi's reluctance to confirm India's nuclear capability in these words: "A mere Pakistani 'laboratory' capability, unproclaimed to the universe by the explosion of a device, is not likely to demolish India's 'yes-and-no' nuclear posture, which has suited its interests very well for nearly 15 years. If India goes nuclear—it may be in the mid-1990's—it will do so as a credible nuclear power befitting its self-image and its international and regional stature. That will be only when India has developed a respectable satellite-launching capability, acquired the capability of

launching IRBMs and of building sophisticated warheads and carriers as well as surveillance systems." India, he declared pompously, will not join the "junior club of small nuclear powers," but wait to crash directly into big time.

It is not without significance that while Washington is urging Pakistan to roll back even its modest lab-level programme, it is not asking India to do any such thing. In fact neither the Symington nor the Glenn amendment has ever been invoked against India. On the contrary, it is implicitly letting Delhi retain its existing nuclear, [as received] and restricting its prohibitions to future acquisitions only.

And the cost of flouting the prohibitions for the future is so low that it is unlikely to serve as deterrence. Food aid has specifically been exempted from the penalty provision (but not in the case of Pakistan); and all that India stands to lose in the event of defiance is $22 million in development assistance—whereas Pakistan forfeits some $550 million in economic and military aid—every year. Honest parity was tried only once, in winter 1987, when Senators Daniel Inouye and Robert Kasten pushed through Senate Appropriations Committee an amendment which held both India and Pakistan equally in violation of the Symington-Glenn Amendments for possessing "separated plutonium" and "enriched uranium", and both equally eligible for a Presidential waiver. Similarly the penalty for violation was made equal for both by providing that the guilty party would not only lose direct American assistance but also IDA [International Development Agency] credits, World Bank loans and IMF backup funds and access of dual-purpose technology. That evened up the stakes for the two countries and India's friends demanding an aid cutoff to Pakistan hurriedly backed down.

The fact that nothing comparable has been attempted this time and no adverse notice of India's nuclear programme has ever been taken raises serious misgivings about American intentions. It is difficult to resist the conclusion that all along Washington has endeavoured to nurture India as a regional power and arm it with a nuclear clout. In fact India is part of the trio—the other two being Israel and South Africa—whom the USA has sought to develop as regional gendarmes enjoying nuclear monopoly in the area as well as preponderance in conventional weaponry.

The contention that the latest Lagomarsino Amendment applies only to the Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent and not to the other two regions, is easily answered with the point that any nuclear restrictions against Israel and South Africa are likely to be even less stringent. Actually the Congress, holding Israel to be an integral part of the American security system, is unlikely to accept even a Lagomarsino-type amendment for Israel and the U.S. Administration views South Africa just as sacred for strategic reasons. In fact, the main reason India has got away with such a benign conditionality is the fear that a tighter stipulation might set a bad precedent embarrassing to Israel. Most experts are agreed that if ever a law were adopted in respect of Israel and South Africa, it would not tamper with their existing nuclear stockpiles.

There is documentary evidence to show that even more than in the case of India, there has been direct American involvement in the development of the nuclear capability of Israel and South Africa. Not only nuclear material but also vital parts, like Krytron switches, and technology for Jericho missiles, and even experts, as from Foxboro Corporation, have gone from the United States to these two countries. The upshot was the joint Israeli-South African nuclear explosion in the Indian Ocean in 1979 recorded by USA's own satellite; and the well-documented disclosure in the London SUNDAY TIMES of Oct 4, 1986, that with a projected arsenal of 100 to 200 weapons, Israel is now the sixth largest nuclear power on earth. Far from invoking any Symington or Pressler Amendment against either, Washington has rewarded South Africa by repeatedly exercising the veto in the UN Security Council to protect South Africa against world censure; and Israel by doubling its economic and military aid from one and a half to three billion dollars a year—the amount earmarked for Pakistan for six years.

This summation should leave us in no doubt that America's "moral indignation" against nuclear proliferation is conditioned, by and large, by its hard-headed assessment of its realpolitik interests which currently are focused on the development of India, Israel and South Africa as America's regional surrogates across the world. Consequently any hope of Pakistan being treated on par with India on the nuclear issue, is grossly misplaced and doomed to be dashed to the ground.

Afghan 'Sabotage Plan' Foiled in Karachi

BK1107161791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, a sabotage plan that included hitting a number of sensitive targets has been foiled in Karachi. The plan was worked out by the Afghan espionage agency Khad, and was aimed at creating panic and chaos among the people. Quoting informed sources, the agency reported that two persons who had been working in Karachi have been arrested on a tip-off. There is concrete evidence that one of them received training in sabotage activities outside the country and was involved in activities of other local saboteurs. The sources said investigations are in progress and the convict has also acknowledged having received training abroad. He was entrusted with hitting several targets.

Official Briefing on Foreign Policy Objectives

BK1207031391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Pakistan is striving for solutions to Kashmir and Afghanistan issues politically and peacefully in order to

ensure peace in the region. This was stated by Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki while briefing newspaper editors about Pakistan's foreign policy in Lahore yesterday. He said Pakistan would like to initiate a dialogue with India to resolve the Kashmir issue on an equitable basis and in accordance with the UN resolutions, enabling the Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination. Akram Zaki said that due to the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir, the international community is underlining the need for a solution. Human rights violations in occupied Kashmir have greatly influenced the world conscience. Even in India some voices are being raised for solving the Kashmir issue.

Akram Zaki said initial contacts with the new Indian Government through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation are quite useful. He added that the timeframe for the next round of India-Pakistan foreign secretary level talks has been worked out and they will be meeting in early August.

The secretary general of foreign affairs said that Pakistan is striving with help from friendly countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and China for a political solution to the Afghanistan issue. He said any government in Kabul formed by the people of Afghanistan will be acceptable to Pakistan.

On Pakistan-U.S. relations, he said in spite of difficulties, the relationship between the two countries has endured.

Akram Zaki said Pakistan would like to resolve the arms proliferation issue on a regional basis and would not tolerate any discrimination as such.

The secretary general of Foreign Affairs also mentioned Pakistan's time-tested friendship with China, reactivation of the Economic Cooperation Organization [including Pakistan, Iran and Turkey], and development at home on various fronts undertaken by the present government.

On Pakistan's foreign policy, he asserted that it is based on strengthening fraternal ties with Muslim countries.

Thai Crown Prince Calls on President 10 Jul

BK1107044091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Thai crown prince Maha Wachiralongkon called on President Ishaq Khan in Islamabad last evening and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The president said that there are cordial political relations between the two countries and there should also be cordial economic and trade relations. The crown prince expressed hope that his visit will further improve relations between the two countries. Later on, the president hosted a dinner in honor of the crown prince.

Prime Minister Meets With Head of Iranian Guards

BK1007162891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 91

[Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i, the commander in chief of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, accompanied by members of his delegation, called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad today. On this occasion, matters relating to regional and global peace and security were discussed. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the identity of views between Iran and Pakistan and agreed to further expand bilateral cooperation.

Leaders Condemn Killing of 130 in Kashmir

BK1207040291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has condemned the Indian forces for killing 130 innocent people in Indian occupied Kashmir. In a statement in Islamabad yesterday, he called upon the United Nations to investigate the violation of human rights by India in occupied Kashmir. He appealed to the people to observe Martyrs Day tomorrow throughout Azad Kashmir to express solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir. The interim prime minister of Azad Kashmir, Sardar Mohammad Ashraf, has also expressed deep sorrow and anguish at the killing of these persons.

Kashmir Party Elects Parliamentary Leader

BK1107113691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] The president of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, was unanimously elected as leader of the parliamentary party of the conference at its meeting in Islamabad today. Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan was nominated as president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Radio Reports Air Strikes on LTTE Targets

BK1107112091 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jul 91

[Text] Air force planes carried out strikes on LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] targets in unpopulated areas. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the strikes were mainly in the Elephant Pass area at the southern tip of Jaffna peninsula, where there was an LTTE build up. They said terrorists were directing increasingly heavy fire at the security forces camp at Elephant Pass and fired at it yesterday. The security forces have returned the fire. Official sources said that the curfews were imposed to prevent terrorists moving to Elephant Pass from neighboring areas.

Soldiers, Tamil Tigers Killed

BK1207072591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0654 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Text] Colombo, July 12 (AFP)—Fierce fighting continued to rage Friday near a major army base in northern Sri Lanka after six more soldiers were killed inside the camp when it came under rebel mortar attack, officials here said. A military spokesman here said dozens of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas had also died in the fresh wave of fighting near the Elephant Pass camp after a brief lull Thursday.

"The Tigers are attacking. We are throwing in all what we have. Six soldiers were killed but we don't know exact Tiger casualties. Certainly it is in the dozens," the spokesman said. Previous military estimates put LTTE losses at 25 dead in Wednesday's fighting alone. The deaths of six more soldiers brought to 10 the number of army troops who have been killed in Elephant Pass since Wednesday.

Four soldiers including a major were killed on the first day of fighting on Wednesday when the LTTE renewed its attempt to capture the Elephant Pass camp located at the mouth of the Tiger-controlled Jaffna peninsula. Officials said LTTE guerrillas kept up attacks on Elephant Pass in spite of heavy aerial bombing and the fighting has trapped several wounded soldiers inside.

"We are unable to land helicopters inside the camp to evacuate the wounded. We are looking for other alternatives to look after the wounded," officials said, adding the threat came from mortar bombs. The military spokesman would not say how many soldiers were wounded but other military officials said at least 22 army troops had been injured when the guerrillas struck with mortars, rockets and grenades.

The Air Force swung to action to thwart the massive LTTE bid on the first day but the guerrillas entreched in well-fortified bunkers about 400 metres (yards) outside the camp have continued to attack the base. "The Tigers are still around. They tried to advance yesterday with two armour-plated bulldozers but it was destroyed from the air. The Air Force has also spotted a lot of bodies outside the camp," the spokesman said.

The Sri Lankan Government Thursday brought the entire embattled north under curfew in an attempt to cut off LTTE supply lines and prevent rebel reinforcements reaching Elephant Pass.

State Defence Secretary Walter Fernando said an indefinite curfew imposed Wednesday in the northern districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu had been widened to cover Vavuniya, further south and the coastal district of Mannar. The LTTE is known to dominate large parts of the northern mainland that is linked to Elephant Pass.

"It is the heaviest attack on the Elephant Pass Camp ... But there is no danger of it falling into enemy hands. The terrorists initiated the attack and now the counter-attack is on," Mr. Fernando told reporters on Thursday.

Tiger guerrillas had repeatedly tried to storm the Elephant Pass camp since renewing their separatist war in the northeast with government troops in June last year after 14 months of peace talks with Colombo ended in failure.

Since last June some 7,482 people have died in fighting in the Tamil-dominated northeast, which the LTTE contends is the independent homeland of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority numbering two million.